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GONZALEZ BYASS

Register for PR lobbyists rejected by MPs

By James Naughtie, Chief Political Correspondent
A COMMONS select committee yesterday expressed concern at the extent of commercial lobbying in Westminster, but stopped short of recommending a register of professional lobbyists.
The report, from the select committee on members' interests, caused a stir among officers of the Commons, MPs, and journalists about allegations of a recent increase in organised lobbying.
They were particularly concerned about research assistants accredited to MPs but paid by outside organisations.
The committee said: "We have identified a number of research assistants whose principal occupation is in the fields of lobbying and public relations."
One prominent lobbyist, Mr Peter Laif, director of Good Relations Public Affairs, told the committee in

evidence that he had "an essentially bogus relationship" with Sir Anthony Grant, Conservative MP for Cambridgeshire. South-west, to whom he was accredited as a researcher.
Sir Laif believed that he should have a right to information for his clients without having to work for an MP to get a Commons pass and said Sir Anthony had been in the register of members' interests, which is voluntary.

Passes of a Commons pass allows the holder to collect free of charge official parliamentary and government documents from the Vote Office of the Commons at the Palace of Westminster.
The committee recommended the establishment of a register of journalists' interests among members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery and the Parliamentary Lobby. Journalists after allegations of abuse in the provision to commercial organisations of information and documents provided to journalists at the Commons.

Officials of the press gallery said last night that such abuses were a breach of their rules, but that they were matters for the Commons to police, since the authorities had the final sanction in accreditation.
In evidence, Mr Roy Russell, who is in charge of the issue of official documents, said that his office regarded one organisation of accredited correspondents (believed to be neither a newspaper or broadcasting organisation) as "extremely suspect".
In March 1984 the organisation had received on request documents from the Vote Office that would have cost £350 from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Mr Russell said the organisation had subsequently paid for the documents after a demand from his office.

Sir Trevor Lloyd Hughes, a former adviser to Lord Wilton, told the committee that he and his fellow public relations consultants regarded themselves as acting "rather like solicitors or medical advisers".
He said: "I have a list of about 50 clients since 1970 but I do not publish them for reasons of commercial confidentiality."
The committee makes three recommendations:
• Members' research assistants should be required to register "any gainful occupation".
Turn to back page, col. 7

Welfare state paper text 'changed at printers' Fowler vetoed benefit figures at last minute

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent
Ministers removed figures which could have shown how much claimants would lose or gain in benefit changes in last week's green paper on the welfare state when it was at the printers, it was claimed last night.
Wholesale amendments to the text of the paper, Reform of Social Security: Programme for Change, were said to have been ordered by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, and Mr Tony Newton, the Social Security Minister, after the text had been delivered to Benrose Security Printing in Derby.

They included the removal of illustrative examples from chapters two and four of the report covering supplementary benefit and family support.
Ministers also rewrote government proposals covering unemployment benefit and changed the text of paragraph 2.92 of the report dealing with mortgage interest payments on supplementary benefit.

Details of some of the alleged changes have been passed to Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, who said yesterday that he was writing to the Prime Minister asking whether the changes were authorised by the Cabinet or by ministers during the Whitman review.
Mr Brown has made a series of disclosures about the social security reviews, based on

leaked information, which have mainly proved to be correct.
He said last night: "I have been told on good authority that ministers were in state of panic about the contents of the green paper and decided on the whole to amend the text at the last moment."
"This delayed the printing of the report which is why copies were only available a

few hours before Mr Fowler made his statement to MPs."

Mr Brown said the main change was the withdrawal of a plan to raise unemployment benefit but cut the claim period from a year to six months.
At the same time ministers modified the paragraph covering plans to remove supplementary benefit help for mortgage interest payments.

They substituted a paragraph committing the Government to holding talks with building societies and local authorities on how "least of the burden falls immediately" directly on the social security system.

The lack of illustrative examples becomes clear in the different treatment given to housing benefit in chapter three compared with the treatment of supplementary benefit and family credit in chapters two and four.
Chapter three contains on pages 32 and 33 examples of how a progressive squeeze "on the entire range of Whitehall running costs, pay, and expenditure on equipment such as computers, accommodation and contracted out work."
The documents propose that increases in these overall costs should be announced in the public expenditure autumn statement—should be set at half a per cent below the inflation rate forecast for the next three years.

Page 39 of the report gives two examples of the effect of the changes on families.
These were retained because Mr Fowler was already committed to publishing the independent review of housing benefit made by Mr Jeremy Rowe, deputy chairman of Abbey National building society, which had figures which could be used to illustrate some of the changes.

Chapter four has on page 46 a similar example of existing benefits paid to claimants on family income supplement.
But there is no example on page 49 showing how Family Credit claimants would lose or gain.

Chapter two has no tables to show the complicated changes for claimants who now receive supplementary benefit but who would under the proposals receive income support topped up by a series of premiums for families with children, single parents, pensioners, and the disabled.

They would also have given the lower rate of income support for the under-25s.

Getty pledges £50m for National Gallery

By Martin Watwright
The Getty family proved its continuing ability to make headlines yesterday with the announcement of a breathtaking charitable gift and the hiring of an exotic new employee.
Mr John Paul Getty II has given the National Gallery £20 million, with a further £30 million expected to follow shortly.

Getty's lesson for Lord Gwilym, page 19

The sum, coming after a spate of Getty generosity to causes from hunted seals to miners' families, is almost certainly the largest endowment from an individual in the history of British public collections.
Less expensively, Mr Getty has offered a job in London, where he lives, to Mr Claus von Bulow, just acquitted of attempting to murder his wife in Newport, Rhode Island. The trial was televised all over the United States and was followed with as much interest as Dynasty or Dallas, which it resembled.
The gallery donation will help the trustees through a difficult time brought about,

patronised by the posterous philanthropist of the family, John Paul Getty I. The crusty oil billionaire left his John Paul Getty Museum at Malibu, California, an endowment of more than \$2 billion with an obligation to spend \$1.5 million every year on many costly projects, including the building of a new museum.
The inflationary effect on art sales has caused serious problems in Britain; in the latest case of many, the National Gallery of Scotland began a search yesterday for \$3,947,000 to buy Andrea Mantegna's Adoration of the Magi. The painting has been refused an export licence until British galleries have had a chance to match Malibu's bid at Christie's in April.

The National Gallery donation is peanuts by comparison with the Malibu fund but the full £50 million will bring in a useful annual income of \$3.5 million a year, tax-free, because the gallery is a charity. This chairman of the gallery trustees, Mr Jacob Rothschild, a financier, said that all the money would be invested and expressed his "overwhelming gratitude." The gallery's purchase grant from the Government this year was just under \$2 million.

Mr Getty did not enjoy easy relations with his father, who disapproved of his hippy lifestyle in the 1960s and his marriage to Tish, a model born in Bali, who died from a heroin overdose in 1971. The family is notorious for its dissensions and Mr Getty, who is 32, earned displeasure from Malibu last year when he paid \$400,000 to prevent a Duccio Crucifixion from going to the Getty Museum from Manchester.
He lives an extremely reclusive life in Cheshire, Cheshire, with closed circuit cameras.

John Paul Getty II—job for von Bulow

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Students reprieve

TORY party chairman, Mr John Gummer, denied that he was climbing down after lifting the suspension of the Federation of Conservative Students. Page 2.

Inquiry ends

THE Bradford fire inquiry ended yesterday with an acknowledgment that the public had been let down by various authorities. Page 4.

Pits protest

MINERS' leaders yesterday hinted at attempts to rally pitmen for further action against pit closures. Page 2.

2,200 jobs go

A TOTAL of 2,200 jobs are to be lost by Lloyds Bank, the printers Sun-Quilms and the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Back page.

Leaking motive

THE civil servant sacked for leaking documents about aid to Nicaragua was outraged by the way the Government misled Parliament. Page 2.

Race appeal

THE Commission for Racial Equality is to ask the Government to restore its investigative powers which were cut by the Law Lords. Page 2.

Cancer fear

A MORE aggressive form of cervical cancer appears to be reducing the survival chances of young women who develop the disease. Page 2.

Labour criticism

THE Labour Party's new general secretary, Mr Larry Whitty, has criticised the inadequacies of the party's head office. Page 2.

Hilditch's 100

ANDREW HILDITCH below scored 119 as Australia reached 284 for six in the first Test at Headingley yesterday. Page 20.

Secret Treasury pay curb

EXCLUSIVE

By Richard Norton-Taylor
CONFIDENTIAL Treasury documents show that the Government is planning stringent new controls over Civil Service expenditure with stricter cash limits on pay and further cuts in manpower.
In the documents, Mr Peter Kemp, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, says the aim is to apply "a progressive squeeze" on the entire range of Whitehall running costs, pay, and expenditure on equipment such as computers, accommodation and contracted out work.
The documents propose that increases in these overall costs should be announced in the public expenditure autumn statement—should be set at half a per cent below the inflation rate forecast for the next three years.

Details of the plans are set out in a minute from Mr Kemp to the Prime Minister and in a background note circulated by the Treasury to Whitehall departments.
They suggest that Ministers are not seriously interested in negotiating a long-term Civil Service pay system linked to private sector pay trends, despite official assurances that they are.
Mr Peter Kemp, deputy secretary in the Treasury responsible for pay, has said that he would like to reach an agreement on a long-term system in time for next year's pay round.
This is one issue due to be discussed at a meeting today between Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, and Civil Service union leaders.
The Government privately acknowledges that pay guidelines are incompatible with a long-term pay system based partly on the private sector where pay has been rising

faster than in the public sector.
The Treasury background note suggests that, in the long term, individual Whitehall departments could be left to decide how they want to spend their own budgets—between pay and equipment, for example. But pay guidelines should be published separately "for the foreseeable future."
Not to do so, it argues, "might be seen as a sign that the Government was letting-up on pay." In addition, the pay assumption is seen as still having value in direct salary negotiations and, to a lesser extent, in influencing local authority and nationalised industry settlements.
The Treasury says that setting Civil Service pay guidelines over the next few years at exactly the same level as the targets for other running costs, might give the wrong signal and yield too high a

starting point for pay negotiations.
But according to the Rees minutes while pay guidelines should stay for political reasons, there would be no need to publish any new manpower targets beyond 1988.
The Government has already announced that by then the number of civil servants will fall to 592,700. But the Treasury assumes that, given tighter controls on expenditure, the number is certain to continue to fall.
The Treasury acknowledges that indiscriminate manpower targets in the past have led to increased overall running costs. Pressure on the Ministry of Defence to cut Civil Service numbers meant that more jobs were undertaken by more highly-paid armed forces personnel. Savings could be achieved, it says, "by civilisation."
It indicates that the Home

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PUSHCHAIR PROTEST: Mothers and children yesterday joined a march of 1,500 people to the London Hospital in Whitechapel to demand the reinstatement of Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician whose suspension for alleged clinical malpractice Tower Hamlets Health Authority last night voted to reconsider "in the light of further professional advice". Picture by Martin Argles

Science cutbacks 'leading to new brain drain'

By Andrew Moncur, Education Staff
Britain is losing its brightest brains and cutting out research crucial to the creation of new industry because of the squeeze on the science budget, the Government has been warned in stark terms by its own advisers.

Their report, published yesterday, calls for injections of financial support totalling £85 million to halt the decline. Otherwise, it forecasts a serious fall in the volume of scientific research by the end of the decade and a total reduction of almost 10 per cent during the 1990s—at a time when investment by overseas competitors is forging ahead.

The report, from the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, describes the impact of cutting research grants, scientific programmes and facilities which are "seriously under-funded." It states that new areas of research cannot be properly developed; laboratories lack funds to buy top priority equipment, and others are faced with being unable to bring major projects into full use.

Although the Government has the stated aim of maintaining and enhancing the quality of research, it has presided over a real drop in financial support for science.
The board states that within 20 years, when North Sea oil resources have been exhausted, continued maintenance of living standards will depend on the development of new export opportunities. "We can only look forward to these if we invest in and exploit our

major resource—our human capital," it says.
"Over the last five years the Government has reduced the level of this investment in real terms, against the trend in other developed countries. The economic and industrial effects on the UK of this may not become obvious for a few more years. However, we would warn the Government that when they do, they are likely to be grave and effectively irreversible."

The board calls for the science budget to be increased by £15 million in 1988-7; £30 million in 1987-8; and £40 million in 1988-9.

Its report concludes that the research councils have responded positively to the financial pressures they have borne. "But the steady attrition of their resource base is squeezing out investment in many 'new' and 'growing' areas of science which are crucial to developing the important industries of tomorrow."

If additional funds are not provided the country will fall seriously behind in the development and application of new technologies.
The board has set out its warning in a report to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science. In an accompanying letter, the board chairman, Sir David Phillips, says that there are signs that a brain drain is in full swing.
"It is the growth points of science and technology which typically attract some of our brightest minds. If the science vote is too constrained to offer them quick enough opportunities for pursuing their

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New turn in worm case

By Martin Watwright
Disappointed magistrates in Herwick-upon-Tweed have been deprived of the honour of taking the first case in British legal history involving the molesting and wilful disturbance of lugworms.
The bench was obliged to forgo the pleasure of a morning discussing the small but interesting creatures—which are hermaphrodites and closely related to a marine worm which breathes through its bottom—thanks to a geographical error.
Mr Mark Butson, prosecuting three sea anglers on behalf of the Nature Conservancy Council, was in full flight when the mistake emerged: he had just described the annihilation of 2 million worms when the court realised that the scene of the alleged crime was outside its jurisdiction.
The case was brought by the council for avian, not amneloid reasons, to safeguard Northumbrian wildfowl rather than the

worms. Birds on the Lindisfarne national nature reserve have been seriously disturbed by the large number of anglers who dig up the worms for bait.
Apart from affecting the birds' diet—because they appreciate the worms as well as the dumber stretches of dune and mudflat into worm quarries. The hunt has gone on day and night, ruining attempts by rare migrants and seabirds to sleep.
Details of this, and of lanterns being chased along the coast, unfolded in Herwick until Mr Butson mentioned that the worst disturbance was at Budle Bay. The clerk-looped anglers, the magistrates conferred, and a map confirmed that Budle was in Alnwick petty sessions area.
The chairman of the bench, Mr James Armstrong, sadly announced that he and his colleagues had no jurisdiction. There was no reaction from

the dock because the three defendants—Philip Smithson, a clerk from Rlyth, his next door neighbour, Edwin Doyle, a welder, and Ian Galbraith, a civil servant of Seaton Delaval—had not turned up.
They face a maximum penalty of £20 when the case reappears at Alnwick, but the NCC is hoping that taking the men to court may prove a deterrent. The 1968 by-law under which the lugworms qualify for legal action as creatures capable of suffering from molesting and wilful disturbance was the only avenue open for a prosecution, a spokesman said.
The council had tried to compromise with the anglers in the past, setting aside two areas near to Lindisfarne where digging was allowed. But sheer demand led to the exhaustion of lugworm stocks—a fall from 40 per square metre to only one or two, according to the NCC's scientists—and anglers began to trespass on protected sections of the reserve.

The weather
SUNNY spells and some showers. Details, back page.

Nicaraguan contras join forces

By our Foreign Staff
The two main Nicaraguan rebel groups have joined forces in a new organisation, the Nicaraguan Opposition Union, to co-ordinate their fight against the leftwing Sandinista Government.
The merger came after the decision by the US House of Representatives to authorise \$27 million for the contras to use for "military" purposes.
One of the directors of the largest partner in the union, Mr Indalecio Rodriguez Adamz, of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN) said the US aid would allow them to begin a big assault against the government by August.
The announcement of the merger of the groups was made by Mr Alfonso Robelo, of the Costa Rican-based Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, and Mr Adolfo Calero of the FDN, based in Honduras. A former presidential candidate, Mr Arturo Cruz, also attended.
Mr Robelo said the new coalition was "an umbrella group for all democratic forces seeking a new government in Nicaragua." He said the first step would be to try to achieve the Alliance's goals through a political settlement, but the contras would step up their war inside Nicaragua "if we have the resources and more pressure is needed."

New Nato tactics unveiled

By David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent
New tactics which, it is hoped, will make Nato less dependent on the early use of battlefield nuclear weapons were announced this week by the allied commanders in West Germany.
The aim is to provide the four-nation army group which guards the North German plain against the possibility of a Warsaw Pact invasion with a powerful multinational reserve force which could range across national corps boundaries and strike back to destroy any Soviet breakthrough.
The new concept of operations has been developed over the past two years, primarily on the initiative of the British commander of Nato's Northern Army Group, General Sir Nigel Bagnall. For the Germans, it has involved modifying the literal interpretation of Nato's "forward defence" strategy—with each of the allied corps lined up to defend its own section of the inner German border—in a search for more military efficiency that should in turn help to raise the threshold of nuclear war in Europe.

Nato's fit of fighting talk, page 13

On 26 August 1978, this man was elected Pope.
Thirty-three days later, John Paul I was dead.

MURDERED?

IN GOD'S NAME

PRESENTS THE EVIDENCE

The Vatican called it "Fanciful and absurd" but have yet to refute even one of the book's frightening accusations.

The worldwide hardback bestseller by David Yallop: at last in Corgi paperback

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Gummer lifts his suspension of Tory students

By David Mease

The suspension of the Federation of Conservative Students imposed by Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, was lifted last night after an inquiry by a sub-committee of the party's executive committee. Mr Gummer said that the suspension was lifted because the students had been "misled" by a "small group of extremists" who had been "misleadingly" claiming that the party was "extremist".

The inquiry was set up by Mr Gummer at the FCS conference at Loughborough University in April. A report held on the first night of the conference led to damage to university buildings. It was also

announced that the inquiry would examine the far-right views of the so-called sound faction which dominates the FCS.

All payments to the federation from party funds were immediately suspended, and Mr Gummer promised that those responsible for the damage would be expelled from the Tory Party. Last week, in a move criticised by MPs as preempting the inquiry, the FCS were served notice to quit their office.

Mr Gummer said yesterday that payments would resume immediately. "They will get all the money they need to do

their job," he said. No one would be expelled, as it had not been possible to find those responsible for the damage at Loughborough.

He claimed that it had always been intended that the FCS would have an office, but that the Conservative Central Office might mean that it was in a different area. Asked why no mention of alternative accommodation had been made in the letter from his deputy, Mr Hal Miller, Mr Gummer said that the letter was sent in a hurry because the building work was starting on Monday.

In his speech to the Lough-

borough conference Mr Gummer spoke of "damage, hooliganism, and sheer vandalism" which were totally unacceptable. Criticising the sound faction, he called them "these claiming to be Conservatives who have disrupted meetings or shouted down speakers."

The inquiry softens these allegations. It says that there was damage, but reports of it were exaggerated. One of the inquiry team, Sir Donald Walters, a member of the Tory Party executive committee, said yesterday that by far the largest part of the bill of £1,500 submitted by the university was for cleaning stains

off carpets. There was concern that there had been no inventory before the conference. "We can't pinpoint exactly how much damage was done to the party," he said.

The inquiry report says that there is an excessive factionalism in the FCS, and too much infighting. The present leadership stance is "divisive and inimical to large numbers of students with Conservative sympathies." But the charge of extremism is conspicuous by its omission: the inquiry confines itself to expressing surprise that rival groups do not mingle socially.

The report recommends rule

changes in the FCS, but in a more "which was angrily rejected by 'wet' Young Conservatives at the party executive meeting which preceded the report's publication, it says that two members of the FCS leadership will join the existing inquiry committee to decide what the changes should be.

The thrust of its recommendations is that the FCS should work more closely with area party organisations, and that the FCS chairman should not be elected by its conference. Mr Mark MacGregor, the FCS chairman, who welcomed the report as a whole, said

that he was more than happy with these proposals. He and his colleagues had been keen to work with the party organisation for some time.

"Getting away from student politics is exactly what we've been trying to do," he said. He believed that the election change would strengthen the domination of the hard right in the FCS. Mr Gummer, asked if the report and the lifting of the suspension represented a retreat for him, said that the inquiry report was "exactly what I said in my speech." The FCS was a "great organisation."

Miners and Nacods start talks over joint approach on jobs

NUM attempts to revive pit closure protests

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

An attempt to revive the miners for further action to protest against pit closures was set in train yesterday by the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The attempt bore the personal stamp of the NUM president, Mr Arthur Scargill, who employed all his old rhetoric to assert: "We have not been through 12 months of fightback to allow the NCB to butcher this industry."

After a five-hour meeting of the NUM executive at Sheffield yesterday Mr Scargill announced that the NUM and the NCB would reach an agreement with the NCB on a new roll-over review procedure. The NUM leader appeared to be in a state of confusion, and did not count agreement between both sides because the deal could contain an independent element written into the procedure.

A desultory move was made during yesterday's meeting for the NUM to pursue its campaign of court-committed during the miners' strike, a move which has led to its funds being seized. The move did not find a second.

Afterwards Mr Scargill said: "The position of the NUM is very clear. We will not purge our contempt and we will not recognise the receiver." Mr Cliff Davies, deputy director of South Wales NCB area, was named yesterday as the retiring director, but Phillips Weekes.

The NUM leader argued that if the NCB persisted in butchering the industry, "the membership would see it had no

alternative but to take action, in which all sections of the union would unite."

Mr Scargill did not mention whether, after the 12-month strike, the union was ready for yet another organised protest over pit closures.

Asked to comment about the number of miners accepting redundancy, Mr Scargill avoided the question and replied: "I would hope Mr MacGregor would want to take redundancy." On the question of a ballot, Mr Scargill stressed that it was an internal matter for the union.

Mr Scargill said the NUM will try to reach agreement with the NCB on a new roll-over review procedure. The NUM leader appeared to be in a state of confusion, and did not count agreement between both sides because the deal could contain an independent element written into the procedure.

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Jasmine case worker 'trusted parents'

By Sarah Boseley

The social worker responsible for the case of Jasmine Beckford said yesterday that she had no reason to disbelieve the parents to prevent her seeing the child.

Jasmine was in Brent council's care when she died last year, aged four, as a result of abuse by her stepfather. Maurice Beckford was sentenced in March to 10 years in prison for her manslaughter, and her mother, Beverley Lorrington, was jailed for 18 months for wilful neglect.

On the first day of her evidence to a public inquiry, Miss Guna Wahlstrom was asked by her counsel, Mr Richard Bond, how she came to accept the parents' excuses for not seeing the children.

Miss Wahlstrom, who had been told that Jasmine was with her grandparents or out shopping and who saw Jasmine only once in the 10 months before her death, replied: "I had no reason to disbelieve those reasons."

She had come to trust both parents about four months after Jasmine and her sister Louise were taken into care. In August 1981 and temporarily given to foster parents. Both children then had bone fractures.

Until the care proceedings, Miss Wahlstrom said, the couple were quite cooperative. Afterwards, "both parents were very angry with me, especially Maurice, because of the things I said about them in court. The relationship deteriorated very much."

But after the family aide, Miss Dorothy Ruddock, intervened the couple allowed her back into their home. From December 1981, she felt that

she trusted them and was trusted by them until Jasmine's death in July 1984.

When she first took on the case in August 1981, Miss Wahlstrom said, she was pessimistic about the chances of rehabilitating the children with their parents because of the severity of the injuries and Maurice's background. Beckford had been abused and taken into care as a child. But at that stage it was too early to make a decision. It was eventually decided to send the children home in April 1982.

The first time she met the mother was at Beverley's own request to talk about the couple's poor housing. Beverley had written to her MP about the case of child abuse. Miss Wahlstrom said "showed that she could take the initiative."

Miss Wahlstrom told the inquiry that she was born in Sweden and came to England in July 1974 after taking a sociology degree at Stockholm University. She worked in a hostel for disturbed adolescents for 18 months and then in a home for younger children.

In 1977 she took a three-year course at North London Polytechnic, which included a law degree. She was a social worker at risk programme. In 1983 she attended a multi-disciplinary two-day course in Brent which included the subject of child abuse. The Beckford case was her first experience of child abuse.

Earlier, Mr David Bishop, manager of Brent social services area 6 office, where Miss Wahlstrom worked, said he had not known that Jasmine was in care until she was taken into care in April 1982. He would have expected to be told after social workers had been prevented from seeing the children for about a month. The inquiry continues.

Actuary with an exciting asset

Malcolm Dean on the man who attacked the Government's pensions review

IT IS difficult to think of anyone less eager to hug the headlines than Stewart Lyon. He was in the news yesterday for speaking out against the minister who selected him to serve on the Government's pensions review.

Mr Lyon is immediate past president of the Institute of Actuaries. An actuary, according to the pensions industry, is a man who finds accountancy too exciting.

Mr Lyon is in charge of all 50 actuaries at Legal and General, Europe's biggest pension company with assets worth £10,000 million to provide cover for one million people at work or retired. He is also general manager in charge of group finance.

He is not unfamiliar with ministers, having been called in by Richard Crossman to discuss the Crossman pension plan in 1968. He was a member of the national pension committee of the Life Offices Association during negotiations about Sir Keith Joseph's plan, and was consulted by various people and groups during the passage of the state earnings-related pension (SERPS) in 1975.

He was the obvious independent expert to serve on the Government's committee of inquiry into pensions and his appointment was announced in December 1983.

Until yesterday his name was known only to actuaries, accountants (he is a specialist in Anglo-Saxon coins), and the music-lovers of Guildford, where he sings with his wife in a choir. But after the Guardian's front page story yesterday, setting out his criticism of the Government's social security proposals, the telephone at the Legal and General press office did not stop ringing.

Almost every radio and television news programme telephoned to ask for interviews. Legal and General had not seen anything like it since one of their directors suggested that Distillers was not offering the parents of thalidomide children sufficient damages.

What prompted Mr Lyon to speak out was a comment from Professor David Donnison, former chairman of the supplementary Benefits Commission, suggesting that it was not surprising that the committee had come out in favour of phasing out SERPS, because its independent members were from the private pension industry.

Mr Lyon is opposed to the Government's proposals. He believes SERPS should be retained, but modified. He thinks that the private pension industry could not meet the needs of people like the disabled, who will have no access to occupational schemes.

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WELL SUITED: The Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, looks over-dressed as he joins youngsters wearing T-shirts designed to support the party's campaign for jobs and industry. Taking it lying down is the designer, David Holah. Picture by Garry Weaver

Whitty scathing on Labour head office

By Martin Linton

SEARCHING criticism of the inadequacies of the Labour Party's head office is made by the party's new general secretary, Mr Larry Whitty, in his review of the party's organisation to be considered by the national executive later this month.

The key departments which are the party's public face to the outside world are "either exceedingly inefficient, or they are severely under-resourced," the review says, referring particularly to sales, despatch, and the press office.

The party's organisers, at head office and in the regions, "seem to be too preoccupied with 'policing' the party rather than recruiting and organising the membership." Election organisation is "less efficient, less adventurous, and less flexible than our opponents."

Campaign materials "often appear unprofessional com-

pared with our opponents," and the output of the research department is too complex, even for internal party use, the review says.

The overall management of the party's head office at Walworth Road, London, lacks any overall strategic approach, it says. Departmental managers seem to take little individual responsibility for management of their own departments, and trivial management decisions end up at a head of department meeting.

Since the last general election there has been a clear intention to shift the party's resources into campaigning, but this has been only marginally effective, the review says. The basic problem is that there are too many departments.

The main proposal in the review is for three central directorates to take over most of the functions of the existing 10 departments.

There would be a director of organisation, a director of campaigns and publicity (responsible for press, publicity, polling and campaigning) and a director of research in charge of a policy development department which would include home and international policy, political education, and local government.

Smaller sections would be responsible for finance, personnel, fund-raising, and computer systems, and answerable to the general secretary. The 10 department heads would be replaced by three directors and the general secretary, with an option later for a deputy general secretary.

A separate review of the party's regional organisation suggests an expansion of training for the party's paid and voluntary workers over a wide range of subjects from television and radio presentation, public speaking and writing, to

newsletter production, new technology, and fund-raising. It envisages a national training panel so that there will be a pool of party members with professional expertise and knowledge.

The party's newspaper, Labour Weekly, would be the subject of a separate urgent review, which would involve an in-depth discussion of the role of the paper and the wider question of communication with party members.

The review points out that the paper brings in substantial income, which helps to offset the cost of producing it, so there are no assets which can easily be redeployed.

Although the review will be presented by Mr Whitty, it was prepared by a review committee chaired by the party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, with the help of the former Labour MP for Norwich South, Mr John Garrett.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jobs study for RUC

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary, the country's second largest police force, is to call in a firm of management consultants to study how it uses its officers, writes Paul Johnson from Belfast.

The province's chief constable, Sir John Hermon, and the Northern Ireland police authority, also revealed yesterday that £150 million is to be spent over the next 10 years on new buildings, improvements and maintenance.

The news comes after criticism early this month from the Eire Federation alleging that conditions inside the Maze prison were better than the working accommodation endured by many RUC officers.

Lords reject hotel bill plea

HOTEL guests who leave without paying their bill are not guilty under the 1978 Theft Act of "making off without payment" if they genuinely mean to pay later, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

A prosecution appeal to reinstate the conviction of an Australian who left a London hotel after 10 days without paying his £1,286 bill, failed after the law lords decided that the act required an intention to do more than delay or defer.

Bullion charge trio's \$2m bail

THREE men arrested early this year on charges connected with the £26 million Brinks-Mat gold bullion robbery were freed yesterday on condition that they provide sureties and cash deposits amounting to nearly £2.1 million.

The three, two of them accused of conspiracy to handle stolen goods and their co-defendant facing a charge of handling gold bullion, were also ordered to surrender their passports.

Radiation alert on M4

THE M4 was closed yesterday when a sign warning that it carried radioactive material was involved in a pile-up of six vehicles near Reading.

Liverpool heads for deficit budget—and more trouble

By Alan Dunn

Liverpool city council is expected to vote today for a deficit budget. This could plunge Labour councillors into a double confrontation with the district auditor, who threatened earlier this week to charge them over failure to report in the public interest to a strike by the 30,000 workforce.

The district auditor could interpret a deficit budget as misconduct in failing to budget within an available rate income. He could then issue a report in the public interest detailing the consequences of such a budget, which the council would be obliged to publish.

But it was also stressed last night that regardless of whether a deficit budget is agreed, the processes set in motion by the district auditor this week could not be halted, although a budget would minimise losses from non-receipt of rates.

Councillors have been told that a notice of loss would be issued in two weeks, which could lead to their being surcharged and made bankrupt.

The controlling district Labour Party was last night recommending councillors to vote for a rate rise of 9 per cent while defending jobs and services with no rise in rents. But this could leave Liverpool £76 million short of its anticipated expenditure of £285 million. "About £54 million of that is through government penalties," the council leader, Mr John Hamilton, said last night. "All we would be doing would be not paying penalties."

Union leaders of council employees denied that they had refused a call by the Labour Party and Labour councillors for an all-out strike from Monday to support the deficit plan. After meeting council leaders union representatives said

that they could not anticipate action preferring to see what happens today before calling meetings on Monday.

The unions had been told that the only way to stay consistent with party policy on protecting jobs and services was to set a 9 per cent rate rise with a deficit budget. The alternative was said to be a "fudged" budget with a 20 per cent rate rise, which would inevitably lead next year to substantial redundancies — up to 3,000, according to one source.

If Liverpool agrees a deficit budget Labour leaders acknowledged that sooner or later in the year they will run out of cash.

Two other options were being floated last night. One sees the 30 Liberals and 13 Tories banding with dissident Labour councillors to force through a compromise budget. The other sees a rerun of last year, when a lengthy and confused budget meeting ended without a decision.

Investigation starts into 245T abortion case

By Penny Chertion

A Health and Safety Executive inspector is investigating the case of a woman who had an abortion because she had been accidentally exposed to the pesticide chemical 245T.

John Egan contacted Friends of the Earth and the Department of Agriculture about the case of his wife Anna Noon, aged 34, who was eight weeks pregnant when a farmer sprayed weeds in fields close to their home in Talbont, Powys, Wales.

Although she immediately closed the windows and she decided to leave the house and visit some friends, said Mr Egan yesterday.

Still feeling sick from the fumes in the next few days, she went to her GP, who referred her to a specialist after hearing about the spraying.

Cravens Brushwood Killer was used in the spraying. This contained a 50-50 mixture of 245T and 24D, the chemical known as "agent orange" used in Vietnam.

The consultant recommended termination after studying the literature to find that the risks of foetus deformities from ex-

posure early in pregnancy were enormous.

The abortion was carried out earlier this week and Ms Noon was too upset yesterday to talk about it.

Mr Egan said: "Obviously it has been a terrible shock, but Anna had a miscarriage last year and we were very much hoping things would go well this time."

The government permits the sale of 16 pesticide products containing 245T, and some are sold in garden centres and shops.

Friends of the Earth and the Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday urged the Government to ban sales of 245T immediately. It is already banned in America, the USSR, India, and most of Scandinavia.

An Agriculture Department spokesman said that the advisory committee on pesticides, which met yesterday, had decided earlier that 245T could continue to be used as directed.

He added: "The Food and Environment Protection Bill, which reaches the report stage next week, will give greater powers to ministers to ban such chemicals if they so wished."

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THIS penny was sold by the auctioneer Spink's in London yesterday for £71,500. It is an ordinary penny but is in gold and was struck in 1257 during the reign of Henry III.

Only six examples are thought to exist and three are in the British Museum. The one sold yesterday to a dealer, was sold in 1919 for £132.50. It is one of the most spectacular of English coins.

Spinks were selling British coins from the enormous collection of the late Mrs Emery May Holden Norrebb of Cleveland, Ohio. She died last year, aged 88.

A sovereign of 1955, in brilliant state and extremely rare, was sold for £26,400. A silver penny of Aethelbert, King of East Angles, who was murdered in 753 AD, was sold for £14,150. Only three are known; this one was found by a peasant in Italy in 1904.



David McKie

Jostling toward the final whistle

Strasbourg, Thursday

THESE are days of turmoil in Strasbourg. As soon as this week's session of the European Parliament ends the construction men will be moving in to rip the place apart. They have somewhere got to find room for more than 70 Iberians as a result of this week's accession of Portugal and Spain.

Meanwhile, MEPs are busy discussing the British Labour group's decision this week to ditch its long-serving leader, Barbara Castle, the one MEP whom everyone has heard of, in favour of Alf Lomas, who is hard, and dedicated to getting Britain out of Europe.

He said he intends to campaign to get the rest of the parliament's socialist group to ditch their long-serving leader, Barbara Castle, the one MEP whom everyone has heard of, in favour of Alf Lomas, who is hard, and dedicated to getting Britain out of Europe.

Neil Kinnock won't like that, and the leader of the Parliament's socialist group, Rudi Arndt, doesn't like it either. British Labour, he says, is bound by the manifesto they all agreed before the last Euro elections. Subject only to certain derogations, which certainly do not give Alf Lomas any kind of carte blanche.

The Parliament began yesterday by voting through the budget it had earlier spurned, adding in the process the various lumps and snags into temporary spending until the ladder was left alone.

European Parliament, page 6

most bare. There were 117 votes in all, mostly by hand but enough by the electronic press-button system to put the machines into temporary mutiny in mid-morning.

Still, they got through it all in under an hour. At Westminster, on my reckoning, it would have taken more like 24. Labour voted for rejection. Barbara Castle, vibrant as ever after a day digesting defeat, told them that if they had a shred of dignity they would throw the budget out, except for what the Germans had done in Luxembourg last night.

Alf Lomas, who said he had voted against every budget since he entered the place, said what Barbara had told them was right. But they endorsed it even so.

But the real turmoil of the day arrived with the news from Luxembourg. Not only people kept complaining, had it come at this moment of time — at the very moment when Spain and Portugal were being civilly ushered through the door — it had already likely ensured that Milan could not be one more in the long trail of summits promising much and delivering little.

Milan was supposed to be all about making decisions, taking more consensual and less contentious. Even the Germans were now in the veto business, what hope could there be of keeping other long-standing addicts off the drug?

What with the biting denunciations of the short-term thinking of member governments from the commission chairman, Jacques Delors, plus a half-hour debate to take stock of what had been said, the scope for "urgent" and unforeseen issues was shrivelling hour by hour.

By the time Parliament finally got to football violence, many MEPs were already on homebound planes. Possibly because speeches were so sharply rationed, usually to between one and three minutes, there was little rhetoric and little recrimination.

No British MEP said it was all Mrs Thatcher's fault, though an Irish member asked what else we expected after the way Mrs Thatcher and sections of Fleet Street had gloried over the sinking of the Belgrano.

A Dutch member wondered if we shouldn't just ban football. And a Belgian, finding nothing new or adequate to say, forfeited his speech to call for a minute's silence.

Libel actions

Labour's deputy leader, Mr Roy Hattersley, is taking legal action for alleged libel against two newspapers, the Times and the Sun, a statement from his office said yesterday.

Mr Hattersley said that the newspapers had published "grossly inaccurate and defamatory" statements about him and his family.

The statements, he said, were "intentionally and recklessly made" and he was taking legal action to clear his name.

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Leaker 'angered by Government's subterfuge'

Richard Norton-Taylor interviews the Foreign Office clerk who was dismissed for sending documents to MPs

MR Geoff Dennis, the former Foreign Office clerk dismissed for sending Whitehall documents to Labour MPs, said yesterday that he had been outraged by the way the Government misled Parliament about its decision to follow the US line on Nicaragua.

Mr Dennis, who is 23, said

that he had thought a lot about whether to leak the documents but that he had been inspired by the arguments put forward earlier this year by Mr Clive Ponting, the former Ministry of Defence official who was acquitted of charges of leaking documents about the Falkland Islands to Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP.

A document dated October 1984, which was leaked by Mr Dennis, describes Foreign

Office support for blocking aid to Nicaragua. "The problem of explaining it in public will, however, persist and we shall need to stick to our present line of claiming that our opposition is based on technical grounds," it says. Another official has added in long-hand the words "we can find them".

But months later, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, a Foreign Office minister, told Mr George Foulkes, Labour's front-bench spokesman on Latin America, that aid to Nicaragua was considered "on its merits".

Mr Rifkind also told Mr Foulkes that no protests had been made against US and

British policy towards Nicaragua. But in a letter to the Overseas Development Administration in Whitehall, Mr Kevin O'Sullivan, the British director of the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, says that the blocking of aid to Nicaraguan fishermen was "an open scandal".

In the leaked letter, dated February 8, 1985, Mr O'Sullivan says that the project was blocked because of a series of "highly questionable actions taken by management, presumably under American pressure".

He adds: "These include deliberately misleading the unauthorised removal of items from the agenda of various management committees, suppression of information and the disappearance of documents from files."

Mr O'Sullivan noted that "external sources are financing the sabotage of the economic infrastructure of Nicaragua, including the destruction of food crops and export crops. The same sources have sponsored the destruction of oil supplies, which the Nicaraguan authorities have to import at the cost of convertible currency."

He noted that the US, after angry exchanges, told the bank that adequate fuel for fishing boats had to be a

condition for any loan. The following week, Mr O'Sullivan says, "saboteurs blew up the fuel depot in the port of Corinto."

Another document refers to the Government's decision last year to resume bilateral aid to El Salvador and a change in Britain's voting policy to that country at the Inter-American Development Bank which, a Foreign Office official noted, "there would be no need to publicise."

Mr Dennis said yesterday that there was a good deal of discontent in the Civil Service, partly because of pay. About leaking he said: "People would have to feel it is the morally right thing to do, and then weigh up how

much you have to lose. If you are badly paid, what you have to lose diminishes."

Mr Foulkes yesterday asked the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to make a Commons statement about the decision by the US Congress to give \$27 million in "humanitarian aid" to anti-Government rebels in Nicaragua.

"The situation in Central America is getting so dangerous that it is now our belief that we are moving towards another Vietnam in that area," he said.

He said it was intolerable that the US should finance what he described as an attempt to topple another democratically elected government.

Sharp fall in hopes of cancer survival

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

Survival chances for young women who develop cervical cancer have fallen sharply according to data published yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Cancer specialists fear that the figures may mark the first effects of a more aggressive form of cervical cancer which is reported to be affecting younger women. Just over 11 per cent of women aged 15-24 who contracted the disease in 1979 died within a year, the OPCS reports. In 1977 only 5 per cent died within a year.

More than 93 per cent of the under-24s who developed the full-blown disease in 1977 survived for three years. Only 79 per cent of those who contracted cervical cancer in 1979 survived for three years.

The number of women involved is small: 45 under-24s developed the disease in 1977, and 96 in 1979. But survival rates for older women developing cervical cancer, and for people developing other forms of cancer, stayed about the same or increased slightly in that three-year period.

Dr Robert Yule, who runs the cancer screening service at the Christie Hospital, Manchester, said: "The figures do not surprise me. They are part of a very interesting picture. The new virus-related cancer of the cervix among young women spreads very quickly, and the patients do much worse than expected."

Yesterday's figures will increase pressure on the health minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, to reverse health cuts which have resulted in backlogs in laboratories which analyse cervical smear tests. The OPCS figures refer to women with the full-blown disease. Smear tests can identify abnormal cervical cells before they become cancerous.

The chairman of the British Society for Clinical Cytology, Dr David Evans, has called for an urgent meeting with Mr Clarke in an attempt to persuade him that the laboratories need more staff and resources.

His society's survey has found that 10 of the 145 laboratories have backlogs of more than two months, and some laboratories have 13-week delays.

Dr Yule added: "We have a backlog of 25,000 tests. It is taking 7 months to get the results out. That means a woman identified today as having invasive cervical cancer has lost four weeks in which she could have been treated."

Cancer Survival 1977-9, OPCS, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2.

Councils expected to spend £536 per person

By Martin Linton

Local authorities are expected to spend £536 for every man, woman and child in the current financial year, according to the latest figures released today by the Central Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

That sum represents an increase of only 2.9 per cent on last year, well below the rate of inflation, which is expected to be 6.9 per cent, and even further below the average rate increase that domestic ratepayers are having to pay, which is 9 per cent.

In real terms the total expenditure of local authorities will thus be some 4 per cent lower this year, although the real level of domestic rates will be some 2 per cent higher.

The Government would not doubt like to claim this as a success for its policy of reining back local authority expenditure, but the definition of council spending that is used by the Treasury — current expenditure — is actually up by 0.1 per cent in real terms.

The biggest spender on education is, as usual, the Inner London Education Authority (£371 a head), followed by the London boroughs of Barking (£238) and Kingston (£231) and the borough of Wolverhampton (£228).

The lowest spenders on education are the county councils of West Sussex (£152 a head), Surrey (£160) and East Sussex (£164) and the London borough of Richmond-upon-Thames (£162).

The figures on social services are misleading this year because the authorities which usually spend the most, such as the London boroughs of Camden, Islington and Lambeth, have delayed setting rates because of the dispute over rate-capping and have not yet filed returns.

But the highest so far are the London boroughs of Hammersmith (£141 a head), Westminster (£137), Haringey (£122) and Wandsworth (£119). The lowest are the counties of Shropshire (£27), Suffolk (£28), Surrey (£29) and Gloucestershire (£29).

The highest spenders on the police are the Metropolitan Police Authority (£100 a head), Greater Manchester (£94), Northumberland (£51) and Cleveland (£50), though Merseyside has the highest figures. The lowest are Surrey (£32), the Isle of Wight (£32), Hertfordshire (£34) and Norfolk (£36).

The highest spenders on fire services are the Greater London Council (£18 a head), Cleveland (£14), Tyne and Wear (£14) and Greater Manchester (£13), while the lowest are Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Leicestershire, all at £8.

The overall level of spending will be £26 billion, of which the main components are £10 billion on education and more than £2 billion each on the police and social services. The main feature of the new figures is the high level of penalties which the Government has imposed on councils spending more than it believes they should.

These penalties will amount to £535 million and will be imposed on 117 of the 458 local authorities.

The grant system has become more of a mechanism for constraining expenditure rather than a means of distributing grant to equate for differences in needs and resources at the local authority level," says the Institute.

The result is that Government grants now only account for 45 per cent of council spending and rates account for 54 per cent.

Out of this total rate income, which works out at £288 per head of population, the majority will come for the first time this year from domestic rates and domestic rate relief grant (£1 per cent).

Mr George Wright, the chairman of the Wales TUC, said: "We have not been successful as we would have wished. To some extent the centre is being under-utilised. He blamed complex legal constraints as the obstacle to investment in co-operatives."

"We have on tap over £1 million available which we could pump in if we could take the money. But we are not a bank and we can't take it. We have got the need but we have not got the mechanism to take one to the other," he said.

Nevertheless, the centre's expert development services and training helped to establish schemes

Toughest action yet as teachers widen target

By Andrew Moncur, Education Staff

The most widespread series of strikes to affect schools in the summer term will be called next week by the two largest teaching unions, threatening disruption across England and Wales.

The new target areas were named yesterday as teachers in Scotland were staging a one-day strike in 115 schools, and confirming their readiness to carry their separate campaign into the next school year.

The Scottish teachers, who are taking action in support of demands for an independent pay review, claimed that the pattern of teacher militancy had changed, possibly for good. The Education Institute of Scotland has been calling out members from solidly middle class districts and in rural areas previously regarded as the last places in which the unions would contemplate militant action.

Mr Fred Forrester, EIS organising secretary, said yesterday that over weeks of action the full extent of the revolution in attitudes had become clear. Its political consequences could be felt for many years.

"In retrospect, we can appreciate that the teachers in these areas have the same grievances over salaries and workload as any other teachers, and that living in a more affluent area may increase rather than diminish these grievances," he said.

In Wales, where teachers are campaigning for an improved pay offer above the 5 per cent they have already rejected, the National Union of Teachers yesterday issued its latest list of 45 authorities in which schools will be affected by up to three

days of strike action from next Tuesday.

From Monday the second largest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers will stage lightning strikes in 49 areas, including eight authorities added to the list for the latest round of action. It is the largest number of authorities to be affected at the same time by the union.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UNT, said: "Unless both the employers and the Secretary of State begin to behave sensibly, and accept that teachers are seriously underpaid — a problem which they must start to solve this year — then NAS/UNT action will continue for the foreseeable future."

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the unions, said: "Our present tactics of lightning guerrilla strikes have proved very successful. The areas in which schools will be affected next week by NUT selective strikes are: Northumberland, Bolton, Rochdale, Wirral, Bury, Sefton, Stockport, Manchester, Oldham, Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Kirkcaldy, Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, North Yorkshire, Humberside, Nottingham, Bolton, Rochdale, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Coventry, Dudley, Birmingham, Walsall, Solihull, Hereford and Worcester, Essex, Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, Dorset, Berkshire, Sea (Greenwich, Lambeth and Wandsworth), Barnet, Bexley, Bromley, Barking, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, and Powys."

The eight new areas added to the NAS/UNT list are: Avon, Cambridgeshire, Dyfed, Essex, Havering, Richmond, Sheffield, and Sutton.

Mr Younger has now proposed the council to reduce its budget which breaches Scottish office guidelines by £17 million.

The default order followed a public inquiry into the council's budget, which found it had "failed" its duties in determining a lawful district rate and had budgeted for a rate fund contribution £5.6 million above the Scottish Office limit.

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TO the city dweller this may look a charming rural scene. But to the inhabitants of Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, this sheep and her kith and kin who enjoy the freedom of the streets are just a nuisance. For generations ewes and their

offspring have held up traffic, overturned dustbins, eaten flower gardens, outpaced inquisitive town dogs, and grazed in the town's cemetery. The more socially-minded act as alarm clocks by banging on garden gates at dawn. Sheep-proof fencing was put up

round part of the town last year when a £750,000 scheme to stabilise a shifting hillside was completed. But Welsh mountain sheep — like lovers — always seem to find a way.

Pictore: Dorothea Heath

Law backs random drink tests on drivers

The police are fully empowered to stop motorists at random and subsequently prosecute them under the drink-driving laws, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Macpherson said: "Some will say that police checks of this kind are an invasion of liberty, but driving with too much alcohol in the blood is also a gross invasion of the rights of others."

Mr Justice Macpherson, sitting with Lord Justice Lloyd, swept away any remaining doubts that motorists could only be stopped if an officer had reasonable suspicion that an offence was being committed.

But, they stressed, a distinction

had to be drawn between random stopping and random breath-testing.

The judges allowed an appeal by the Chief Constable of Gwent against a decision of Newport Crown Court in February last year to quash a drink-driving conviction imposed on a newspaper photographer, Peter Dash, from Pontypool.

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Edinburgh heads for confrontation as Government threatens to block £7m

By Jean Stodd, Scottish Correspondent

A £7 million rate support grant for Edinburgh will be stopped on July 1 by the Government unless the council agrees an order to cut spending by 10 per cent.

The city last year elected its first Labour administration and has defied Government guidelines to raise rates 7.9 per cent, saying that it intends to create jobs and improve services.

A default order served on the council by the Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger, puts Edinburgh's council and the Government on collision course.

The council leader, Mr Alex Wood, yesterday made it clear that councillors were prepared to face individual penalties and even imprisonment for contempt rather than change policies.

"I think he would be taking a sledgehammer to local democracy if he tried to force his policies on us in this way," said Mr Wood.

Earlier this week the district council voted 34 to 27 to re-

affirm its commitment to a budget which breaches Scottish office guidelines by £17 million.

The default order followed a public inquiry into the council's budget, which found it had "failed" its duties in determining a lawful district rate and had budgeted for a rate fund contribution £5.6 million above the Scottish Office limit.

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Doctors to appeal

By a Correspondent

Two Staffordshire pathologists sacked for allegedly withholding £10,000 from the national health service are to appeal to the Secretary of State.

Dr Terry Marshall and Dr Peter Fletcher were dismissed from £30,000-a-year jobs by the West Midlands regional health authority. It is alleged that they used facilities at North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, where they worked, to do tests for private hospitals. The money they allegedly withheld has since been repaid.

Dr John Havard, secretary of the British Medical Association, which is backing the two doctors, said yesterday: "We will be appealing to the Secretary of State. We believe the procedure under which the two doctors were dealt with was wrong."

Mr Marshall, of Clayton Road, Clayton, Stoke-on-Trent, said: "The BMA have asked me not to make any comment, but I feel like screaming head off over what has happened."

Law blamed as bar to job creation

By Paul Heyland, Welsh Correspondent

The Wales Co-operative Centre, which has received more than £200,000 from the Government, common market and local authorities since it was established two years ago, has been restricted in its job creation role. It was claimed yesterday.

Mr George Wright, the chairman of the Wales TUC, said: "We have not been successful as we would have wished. To some extent the centre is being under-utilised. He blamed complex legal constraints as the obstacle to investment in co-operatives."

"We have on tap over £1 million available which we could pump in if we could take the money. But we are not a bank and we can't take it. We have got the need but we have not got the mechanism to take one to the other," he said.

Lords' decision hits inquiries into racial discrimination

Equality group seeks return of lost powers

By Malcolm Dean

The Commission for Racial Equality will ask the government next month to restore its investigative powers which were drastically cut by a decision of the Law Lords last December.

They ruled that the commission could not investigate any organisation unless it believed that racial discrimination was taking place.

But the commission's director, Mr Peter Newsum, said yesterday that under this system almost half the CRE's 47 investigations would not have been possible.

Many of the commission's most important investigations have begun without any evidence. Its lawyers explained yesterday that the organisations themselves were often unaware that racial discrimination was occurring. In other cases the victims would be unaware of discrimination unless there was a systematic examination of the procedures which were causing it.

Widespread discrimination was found in a study of council housing allocations in the London borough of Hackney. But its extent could not have been gauged by the individuals affected.

Mr Newsum said the decision of the Law Lords contradicted the purpose of Parliament in passing the 1976 Race Relations Act. But the Lords had been barred by their procedure from looking at the evidence. Ironically the clause on which the Law Lords based their ruling had been an amendment which was introduced into the Lords during the passage of the bill.

The purpose of the amendment was stated unequivocally in Parliament: "to give a person against whom a complaint is made a right to information."

This had been misinterpreted by the Lords to mean that there must be a belief that discrimination was occurring.

The commission was taken to court on the point of law by the Prestige Group. It meant that reports on Prestige and three other companies had had to be dropped.

Mr Newsum said the commission would be forwarding to the Government next month a series of changes which it would like to see made to the present law. The restoration of its investigative powers was the most important.

In its annual report, published yesterday, the commission notes that race relations have worsened in some respects in the 20 years since the first race relations act was passed. There was harassment of black tenants on some estates, persistent violent attacks on Asians in some areas and the harassment of black players at football grounds.

Mr Newsum said it would be comfortable to blame the harassment at football matches on the National Front but it was on too large a scale.

The report expresses concern about discrimination in local authority housing after the reports on Hackney and Liverpool.

Its employment chapter shows that for people with the same O-level qualifications, Asian men suffered twice as much unemployment as white males, and West Indian men almost three times as much.

Debate ends in vote for the bomb

By Paul Brown

AFTER listening to a two-hour debate on dropping the atomic bomb on Japan 40 years ago, organised at the Imperial War Museum in London yesterday, a group of 150 sixth formers from schools throughout Britain voted to approve the decision: 78 voted for dropping the bomb, 56 against, and 16 were undecided.

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, proposed a motion that "in the light of history there can be no justification for dropping the atomic bomb in August 1945."

Against him was Lord Chalfont, a former Foreign Office minister. Two of the three witnesses called, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, who was an observer at the bombing, and Professor R. V. Jones, who helped to develop the bomb, also came out in favour of dropping them.

Mr Kent said he believed that it was immoral, illegal, and absolutely unnecessary to drop the two atom bombs. He believed that dropping the bomb was unnecessary at the time because the Japanese were suing for peace. The allies knew this but chose to ignore it.

Group Captain Cheshire said there had been a peace movement in Japan but it was impotent before the bombs were dropped, and dropping them gave it the upper hand.

Lord Chalfont said the Japanese were determined to continue fighting for another 18 months. The Japanese army was prepared to fight to the death.

Plans were already far advanced for an allied invasion, he said. If the atom bombs had not been dropped another million Japanese civilians would have been killed, and a million soldiers on each side would have died in the invasion battle. Horrified though it was, only 200,000 were killed by the two atom bombs, so many lives were saved by the decision to drop them.



BLACKPOOL ROLE: Colin Firth (left) at Llandudno pier for a scene from the eight-hour television dramatization of J.R. Priestley's novel, *Lost Empires*. Llandudno's being used to film scenes of Edwardian Blackpool because Blackpool has become too modern. The £3 million serial will be transmitted on ITV in late 1986. Picture by Don McPhee

Bradford victims 'let down' by authority

By Malcolm Fithers

The public inquiry into the fire at Bradford City football ground on May 11 ended yesterday with counsel representing the club conceding that it could, and should, have been prevented, and that the public had been let down by various authorities.

Mr Edwin Glasgow, summing up after seven days of evidence from 77 witnesses at Bradford city hall, criticised the press for coverage of the fire, and called for better public safety at football matches and elsewhere.

Mr Justice Popplewell, chairman of the inquiry, and his two advisers are expected to deliver their interim report to the Home Secretary within weeks, although it will not be made public initially.

Mr Justice Popplewell said he will be in Birmingham during the first week in July to collect evidence from the police and the clubs involved in an incident at the Birmingham City v. Leeds United game on the same day as the Bradford fire.

Mr Sydney Levine, representing the Bradford Law Society on behalf of relatives of the 56 dead and the many injured, said after the hearing into the Bradford fire that a

test case which may be to apportion blame was being considered. He said that more than one party may eventually be held responsible for the tragedy.

Mr Glasgow told the hearing that, asked whether the blaze could, or should, have been prevented, the club had to say "yes". The combined club, the police, the health and safety executive, and the county council should have seen to that.

He reasoned that the club and the police may have liaised with one another so closely that they had lulled each other into a false sense of security.

He said that the police may have turned a benevolent blind eye to the obvious limitations of the effective role that could be played by the time stewards in an emergency.

For its part, the club may have been too quick to accept that 100 or so policemen at the ground were, in fact, in control.

Mr Timothy Hartley, counsel for the inquiry, condemned the Daily Star's coverage of the fire, in which it was claimed that a smoke bomb had been thrown at the stand.

The Lessons of Bradford, page 13

Buildings report stands by timber frame houses

By Susan Tirthani

Timber framed houses were defended by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) yesterday in a statement comparing them favourably to homes of traditional design. It found the performance of the houses to be as satisfactory as that of their more conventional counterparts and ruled out any increased safety risks to occupants.

The statement comes in response to recent press coverage of the research establishment's preliminary report on faults in timber frame construction. Figures from the National House Building Council, which guarantees new houses built in Britain, show one in 6,000 timber frame houses built in the past 20 years as the subject of defect claims, says the report.

About 200,000 timber frame houses have been built in the private sector since 1965 and 433 different types of fault were found on the 10 sites surveyed.

They included poor construction of fascings, gutters and windows so that excess water could penetrate. Faults associated with the use of brick cladding included an inability to provide effective barriers against fire.

A spokeswoman for the establishment said that the faults discovered were due to departures from good building practice and not to the timber frame construction. "The BRE is telling the industry to pay attention to quality of construction."

The press statement was aimed at reassuring owners of timber frame houses, new home buyers, and the industry.

Animal group loses plea

The animal rights pressure group, Compassion in World Farming, yesterday lost its appeal against a £12,000 costs order after an unsuccessful attempt to outlaw a veal farm run by monks in West Sussex. "A crusade costs an awful lot of money," said Mr Justice Macpherson, dismissing the appeal against the magistrates' decision in the High Court.

Mr Roberts, of Lavant Street, Petersfield, Hampshire, said that such "punitive" costs would deter protests by peaceful animal rights groups and leave the way open to violence by more extreme campaigners. The group alleged that the monks of Storrington Priory had ill-treated or caused unnecessary distress to their calves under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act and the 1968 Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

THE DAY IN POLITICS

Heseltine 'hiding truth' on defence cuts



Mr McNamara: 'Policy of structural disarmament'

DEFENCE DEBATE

By Colin Brown

THE Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, was accused of carrying out a policy of "structural disarmament" through reductions in defence spending by the Shadow Minister, Mr Kevin McNamara, yesterday.

Speaking on the second day of the two-day debate in the Commons on the defence estimates, Mr McNamara said that the postponement of defence orders and delays in decisions on tendering would lead to the disarmament of Britain's forces.

But he accused Mr Heseltine of hiding the truth from the House and the country. He said that the Defence Secretary had refused to answer the central question posed by this week's report by the all-party Commons Select Committee on Defence on whether Britain would be able to meet its defence commitments when its pledge to spend an extra

3 per cent on Nato responsibilities came to an end after 1989.

"If he does know he doesn't want to tell the House or the country — he wants to leave behind all these problems to be faced up to by his successor, or if he can hang out until the next general election, for them to be faced up to by the next Labour government," said Mr McNamara.

Labour tabled an amendment to the government motion on the defence estimates, warning that the purchase of the Trident nuclear system would lead to further financial cuts in Britain's real defence.

The SDP-Liberal Alliance parties tabled their own motion regretting that the forthcoming reduction in Britain's conventional defence would "lower the nuclear threshold and create an unacceptable reliance on the first use of nuclear weapons."

Although they called for the cancellation of Trident, neither side mentioned of cruise missiles.

The Defence Minister, Mr Adam Butler, said that next week's meeting on the European fighter aircraft project would be seeking to reconcile differences on major issues such as workshares. He said the Government was determined to bring about the European venture if it could, "but we shall not do so to the detriment of British industry."

Mr Butler announced that the Government intended to place a contract with Vickers for the development and initial production of a new armoured repair and recovery vehicle for Challenger tanks which had been secured after a competition resulting in a saving of almost 20 per cent for the Ministry of Defence.

But Mr McNamara claimed that the competition policy being followed in the MoD was being used to bamboozle the Commons. By avoiding complete disclosure the Government was "not only able to pull the wool over the eyes of the select committee and the Commons but also over the country."

THE EEC

Cereal deal 'setback'

THE European Community's failure to agree a cut in cereal prices at the latest round of price-fixing negotiations in Luxembourg was condemned by Tory and Labour MPs in the Commons yesterday.

The Agriculture Minister, Mr Michael Jopling, regretted the failure to agree a 1.5 per cent cut in prices after the West German Government's decision to exercise its right of veto. "This represents a very serious setback to the progress which has been made in putting the common agricultural policy on a more realistic basis," he said.

"Careful thought will need to be given by the Agriculture Council and the Commission to the situation now confronting us."

For the Opposition, Mr Brynmor Jones demanded: "If a paltry 1.5 per cent reduction cannot be agreed, what hope is there of the common agricultural policy being able to impose real cuts?"

It was time agriculture ministers realised that there was a national interest for the ratepayers of all countries in reducing subsidies for unwanted cereals now running at £1.3 billion a year.

Mr John said: "There will soon be an outcry as subsidies and surpluses mount and the Council of Ministers will be compelled to do in haste what they are obviously too spineless to do in an orderly way — namely, to cut agriculture — and agriculture will be the loser."

Mr Hamilton (C. Taffin) protested that use of the veto meant "any serious prospect of reform of the CAP may now be declared 'hush'". To Tory cheers he said the only real control on agricultural spending was the ceiling on resources available and "the only way we will get any reform at all is not to propose or support any increase in our resources to the Community."

Another Tory, Mr David Harris (St. Ives), said that Britain was being unwillingly driven to the point where cereal "quies" would be introduced.

Labour defends talks with Sinn Fein

ULSTER

By Colin Brown

THE Labour spokesman on Ulster, Mr Peter Archer, yesterday defended the decision of a Labour Party working group to meet members of Sinn Fein during a visit to the Province on Wednesday.

He told the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, during question time in the Commons, that the essence of democratic and constitutional politics was to listen to people with whom one disagreed.

He called on Mr Hurd to justify not talking to elected Sinn Fein councillors about health matters and road safety. Those whose reactions were to throw a tantrum and walk out of meetings could hardly complain if they were seen to be more interested in dramatic discord than in real understanding, said Mr Archer.

The Labour spokesman also made it clear that he had left the Ulster tour before the meeting with the Sinn Fein councillors only because he had an evening engagement.

Mr Hurd had suggested earlier that Mr Archer had taken an early flight back to England to avoid the "embarrassing meeting". He claimed that Miss Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood), who also defended the meeting, was putting forward a different policy from the Labour front bench.

But after Mr Archer had intervened Mr Hurd said he was sorry to hear Mr Archer's explanation. "It means, I fear, he associates himself with the Labour Party delegation who received Sinn Fein," said Mr Hurd.



Mr Hurd — rebuke to Labour politicians

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The Northern Ireland Secretary said, "I am quite clear there is no purpose in deceiving ourselves that any conversations with any representatives of Sinn Fein would turn the Provisional IRA into law-abiding citizens. That is not in my view a possibility."

He added: "The policy I pursue is that we should use every means within the law to distinguish between those in Northern Ireland who believe and practice constitutional means and those who count on violence."

Empty bench problem

By our Political Reporter

Labour will do well to have the benches full next Wednesday for their Opposition debate on the price increases forced on the public by the Government through the public corporations.

It is not that the subject does not warrant interest but that Labour's forces are extremely stretched. On that afternoon five Commons select committees are meeting, detaining up to 18 Labour MPs on the committee corridor.

The absence of Labour MPs from the chamber, particularly on Labour's own debates, has become a feature of this Parliament, but it has little to do with members being absent without leave.

Some leading Labour backbenchers complained that the re-selection process is blunting

Labour's impact on the Government when it should be hitting ministers hard — in the mid-term, when they are at their most vulnerable.

Some MPs have managed to obtain re-selection by the device of a short list of one. But they still have to go through the motions of a contest which requires more regular attendance at constituency meetings. Others who have been challenged have had to request leave of absence which the whips are duty bound to give. For example, Mr Alan Williams, the Labour MP for Swansea West, is understood to have attended four nomination meetings in one week.

The Brecon election will also have a profound effect on absenteeism as Labour MPs will be visiting the Welsh constituency to drum up votes.

GLC BILL

Over another hurdle

The Government yesterday fought off a bid in the Lords to hand trading standards functions over to fire and civil defence authorities after abolition of the Metropolitan Councils.

Voting was 146 to 128 (Government majority 18) rejecting a move backed by Labour, Liberal/SDP Alliance, crossbenchers and some Tory backbenchers during the Report Stage of the controversial Local Government Bill.

The move was led by Tory backbencher Lord Mottistone, who argued trading standards should continue to be operated on a county-wide basis.

Under the bill, these functions will be devolved to joint committees to be set up by district and borough councils. He said powers given to ministers to intervene, if districts were unable to cope under the new arrangements, were inadequate.

quote. "By that time the damage will have been done and the teams will have been split up."

But the Environment Minister of State, Lord Elton, told peers a later Government amendment would enable the residuary bodies, which oversee the transition to successor authorities, to run trading standards services until the districts were ready.

"The residuary body can become the holder of these teams for as long as is necessary until the districts have got their act together," he said.

PM's QUESTIONS

Press ads 'show jobs'

THE number of vacancies advertised in yesterday's newspapers is a sign that more jobs are being created, the Prime Minister declared in the Commons yesterday.

The Prime Minister was replying at question time to Mr Peter Wiggers (C. Gosport), who pointed out that yesterday's Times had contained so many job advertisements that it had produced a separate eight-page supplement, that the Daily Telegraph had 10

pages of jobs; and that "even the Guardian" contained five job pages.

Mr Thatcher replied: "I believe it is a sure sign that more jobs are being created. And I hope those who are without a job will go anxiously after those jobs, and that many more will be created as a result of them."

BANK HOLIDAYS

Holiday dates

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced Christmas and New Year Bank Holiday dates between January 1, 1987, and December 31, 1989.

In a Commons written reply, Junior Employment Minister Mr Peter Bottomley, told Mr Barry Henderson (C. Fife NE) that some of the days that would traditionally be holidays fell on Saturdays and Sundays. "Some of these are automatically transferred to weekdays under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971. In the other cases it is our intention to declare substitute holidays on weekdays," he said.

The dates are: 1987 — Thursday, January 1; Friday, December 25; Monday, December 28, 1988 — Friday, Janu-

ary, 1; Monday, December 28; Tuesday, December 27, 1989 — Monday, January 2; Monday, December 25; Tuesday, December 26.

There will be additional Scottish holidays on Friday, January 2 1987; Monday, January 4, 1988 and Tuesday, January 3, 1989.

Two Cabinet Ministers, Mr Nicholas Ridley and Mr Norman Foster, will next week have to defend to MPs two controversial decisions, which they have deftly set before the House in recent days.

Mr Ridley, the Transport Secretary, is expected to pick off most of his enemies on his own back bench with the announcement of his airports expansion package, which included Stansted. The Tories around Heathrow may have had time since then to rethink, as pointed out by Mr Robert Adley (C. Christchurch) that the Perry Oak sludge works site, which is to be cleared, is not being considered for the cultivation of daisies.

However, Labour MPs, privately believe that when the Commons is asked on Monday to approve the airport's white paper, Mr Ridley's critics are

unlikely to reach for into double figures. Even fewer Tories are expected to complain about the major thrust of Mr Norman Foster's social security reforms, which are due for approval on Tuesday, although some still complain about the small print.

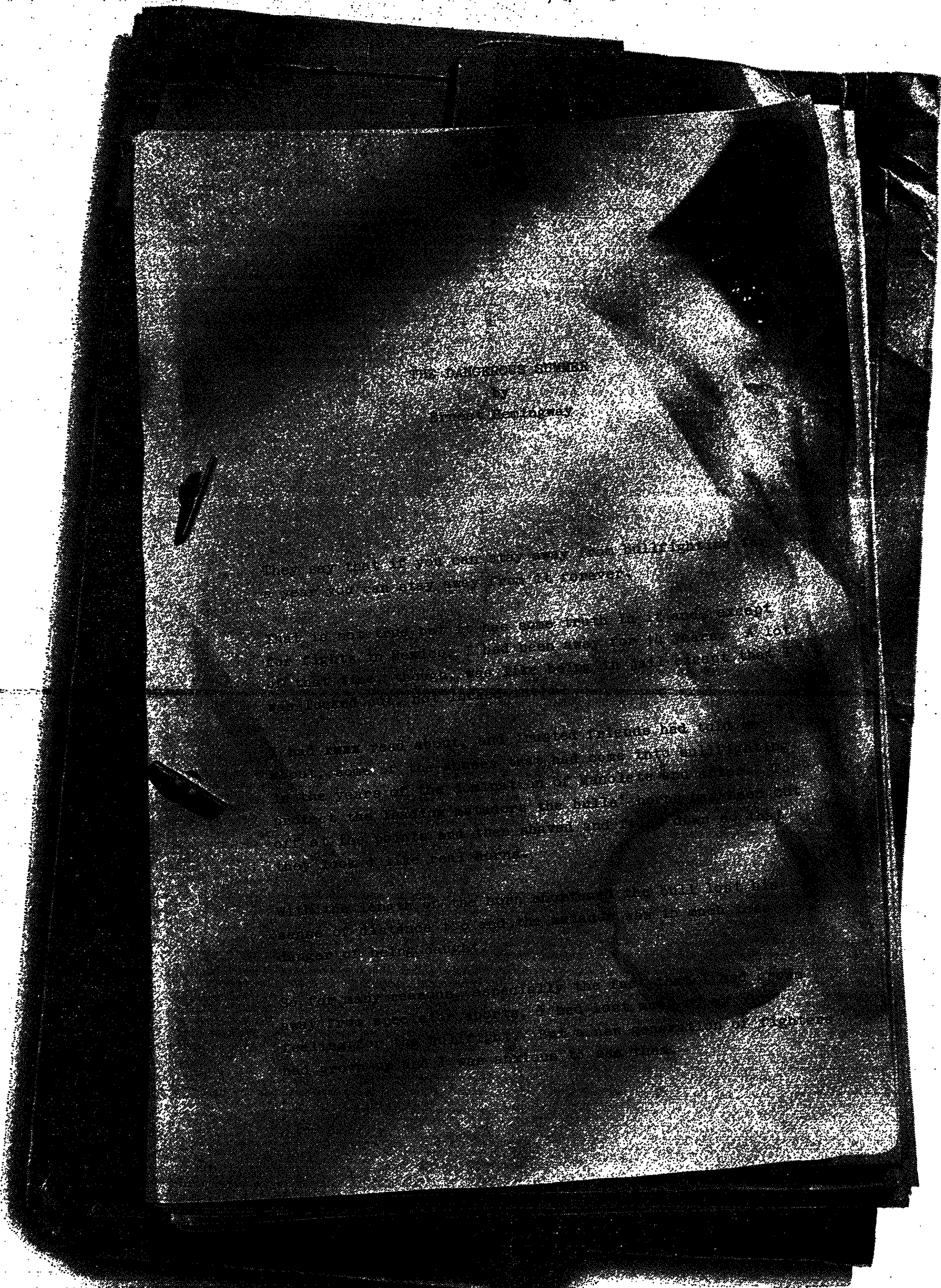
The Lords have a daily diet of the Local Government Bill, with even their dinner hour taken up with extra business. But providing the Government avoids defeat during Royal Assent week, the main interest will be on Friday, when another Marriage Enabling Bill — perhaps the last — is debated.

Next week

Monday: Debate on Government motion to amend the White Paper on Airports.
Tuesday: Debate on Government proposals to reform the House of Lords.
Wednesday: Opposition debate on Government proposed price increases.
Thursday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Friday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Saturday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Sunday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Monday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Tuesday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Wednesday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Thursday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Friday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Saturday: Debate on Social Security Bill.
Sunday: Debate on Social Security Bill.

NEWS BRIEF
Quiry
ins
bomb
ident

talks



Now (at last) read on.

Ernest Hemingway's last book is being published for the first time this month. After 25 years. It records his involvement in a momentous bullfighting duel between two outstanding matadors in 1959. And for the next two Sundays you can read extracts of it, exclusively, in the Observer Magazine. Olé.

THE OBSERVER

Socialists say split was not as serious as claimed

Few options for Soares as partners walk out

From Peter Collis in Lisbon

The 19 ministers and secretaries of state who make up the Social Democratic coalition government in Portugal's coalition government, were handing in their resignations yesterday following last week's announcement that the country's two-year-old ruling Socialist-Social Democratic alliance.

The Social Democrats, who have said they will remain until a new government is formed, had delayed their resignation until after the signing of Portugal's Treaty of Accession to the EEC on Wednesday.

The Social Democratic Party claimed that the decision to leave the coalition was due to disagreement with their Socialist partners over basic economic policy concerning labour, nationalisations, and agrarian reform.

The Socialists, however, claim that the disagreements were not as wide as the Social Democrats said they were, but the decision was a mere pretext for breaking up the coalition.

The Social Democrat walkout left the Socialist Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, in a few options. He can continue his Socialist-led government, although the exact date was uncertain as it depended on the timing of regional elections due early next year.

Spain's signing of the Treaty of Accession to the EEC has been almost universally welcomed since the country, although a group of 500 dairy workers staged a demonstration in Madrid on Wednesday evening protesting against the agricultural policy which they fear will bring a loss of jobs, mainly in the north-west of the country.

Dr Soares has, in effect, passed the buck to President Ramalho Eanes. The President has the final word on the procedure to be followed. He is expected to announce his decision next week after consulting with Portugal's political parties and the Council of State.

Jane Walker adds from Madrid

Film on war Jews angers the left

From Campbell Fage in Paris

A TELEVISION film which questions the Communist party's behaviour towards a group of mainly Jewish resistance members more than 40 years ago has worsened already bad relations between the Communists and their former government partners, the Socialists.

The Communist party newspaper *L'Humanité*, yesterday accused the Socialists of deciding to show the film on state television to tarnish the party's record in the Resistance.

"The Socialist Party and those in power have set their sights on the main obstacle to their catastrophic policy, which is plunging the country into unemployment, poverty and crisis."

The Communist party leader, Mr Georges Marchais, has described the decision to show the film as "a despicable attack" on his party.

Several changes of mind by the broadcasting authorities have fuelled the controversy. Channel Two first decided to show the film, then withdrew it after consulting the supervisory broadcasting authority and a panel of experts. Earlier this week it reinstated the film for showing early next month.

The film tells the story of the group led by the Armenian, Mikael Manouchian. Its members were immigrants to France, all Communists, and mostly Jewish.

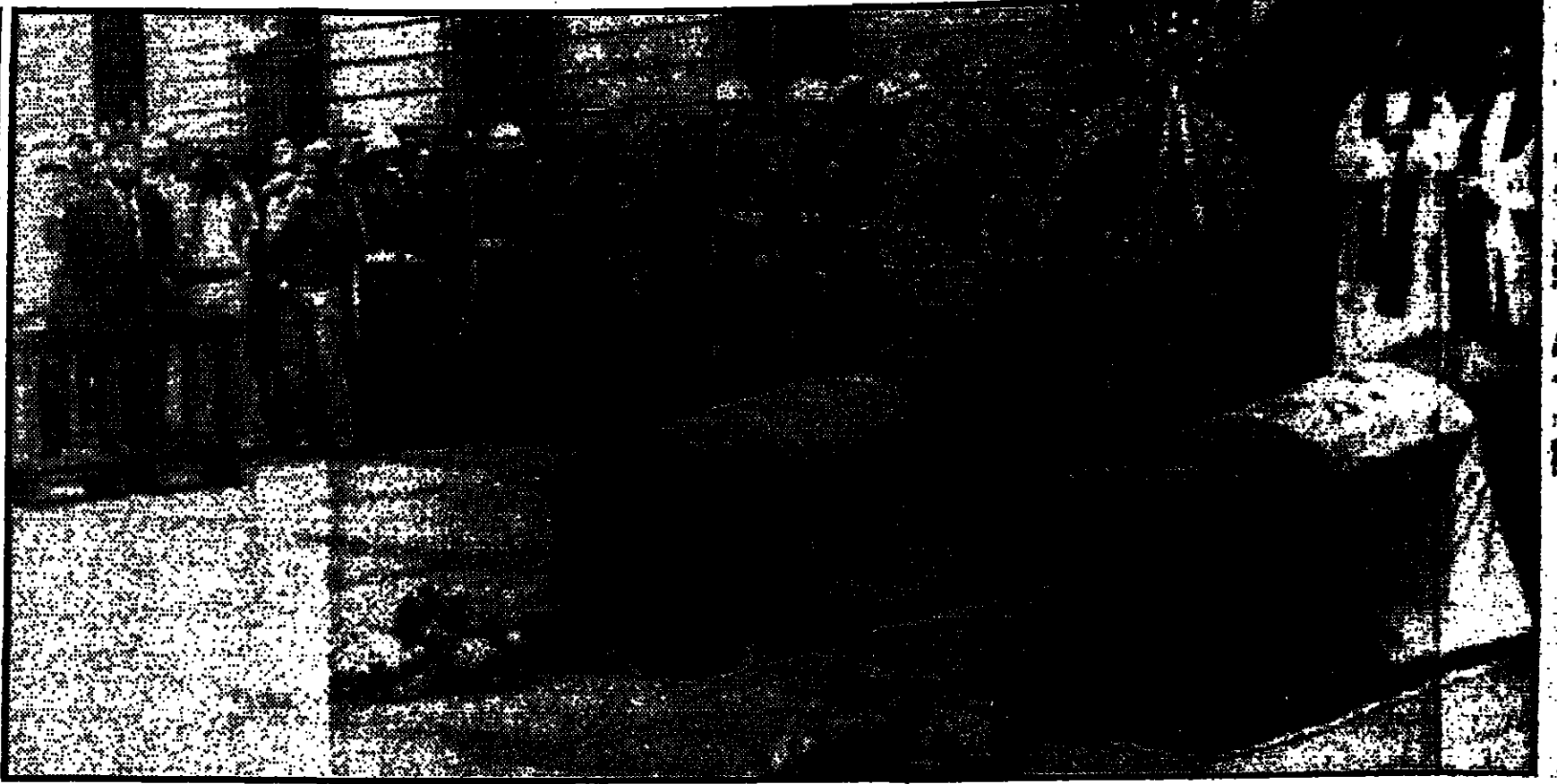
The group was active here in 1942 and 1943 until a wave of arrests and the execution of 23 of them in early 1944. When the group sensed that the Germans were in the trail, the Communists allegedly refused to help its members withdraw to the south.

An editorial in the magazine, *Nouvel Observateur*, this week asked some hard questions. Did the communist party defend the actions of the group to improve its own list of battle honours? (Possible). Did it do so much more readily because it was a matter of Jews, immigrants and foreigners? (Not impossible). Did it cold-bloodedly hand them over to the Germans? (Hard to believe).

The widow of the group's leader, Mrs Meline Manouchian, said that she was overcome with joy and regarded the decision to show the film as "an almost personal triumph."

The association representing the sons and daughters of Jewish deportees from France praised the decision to show the film. "This film brings to the notice of French opinion that in the period of Nazi persecution, the Jews did not like lambs to the slaughter, but many of them resisted and fought actively in their defence on the soil of France."

The film depicts a group of modest men, some of them tailors, who trained for action by the Communist Party during the 1930s. Jacques Faber, aged 77, said: "My first German, I was supposed to kill him with blows from a hammer. I could not, I wasn't a murderer."



VICTIMS OF TERROR: The Spanish Defence Minister, Mr Narcis Serra (bearded, second left) at the funeral yesterday of the army Colonel Vicente Romero, and his driver Juan Jimenez, who were shot in Madrid on Wednesday, reportedly by Basque separatists. The Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, said he would seek media restraint to reduce the publicity value of terrorism.

Escape hope for Agca

Rome: Mehmet Ali Agca, the man who shot the Pope, claimed yesterday that he waited a year before turning state's evidence because his alleged accomplices had promised to free him. He also told the court that a Vatican employee's teenage daughter, reportedly kidnapped to obtain his release, is still alive.

Agca pointed out two of his alleged co-conspirators in photographs taken in St Peter's Square on the day he shot the Pope four years ago. But he later said he was not sure about the identifications.

Judge Severino Santapichi, who presided over the 1981 trial that sentenced Agca to life imprisonment, asked Agca why he first insisted he acted alone and waited a year before cooperating with police. "They should have arranged my escape from prison in some way or kidnapped someone to exchange," Agca said.

The judge asked Agca who was to arrange his escape. He replied: "Vassily Kolev or Frank Weik or all of them. There was a promise."

Agca is a defendant in the trial, also charged with shooting the Pope. His whereabouts are unknown.

The other name mentioned is the one Agca uses for one of the Bulgarian defendants, the late Colonel Ziljo Vassilyev who is in Bulgaria claiming diplomatic immunity.

The judge then asked Agca if the disappearance of Emanuela Orlandi, daughter of a Vatican messenger, had anything to do with plans to arrange his escape.

"Emanuela Orlandi is alive. She was kidnapped by a powerful Masonic organisation, the P-2 of Licio Gelli, because that organisation knew that I was a Jew," Agca said.

"They wanted to use me as a tool," Agca has frequently interrupted the three-week-old trial saying he is Jesus Christ. — AP.

Delors spreads blame for farm price debacle

From David McKie in Strasbourg

The President of the European Commission, Mr Jacques Delors, blamed all the member states yesterday for the events on Wednesday night which ended in West Germany's first-ever use of its veto to block the grain price cuts.

People were blaming the Germans, Mr Delors said, but they should not be made a scapegoat. Other members who refused to vote on the issue included states which had many times paid lip service to the European concept.

All countries were to blame, Mr Delors said, adding that he wanted to exonerate the Italian presidency which could have done no more than it did. The worst aspect, Mr Delors told the European Parliament, was the contempt which the agricultural ministers had shown both for the commission and for parliament.

"Europe is still dominated by short-term interests and the short-sighted strategies of its governments."

The news from Luxembourg was greeted with dismay and outrage by many MEPs yesterday, all of whom said because it came just as Europe should have been celebrating the accession of Spain and Portugal.

The decision was also seen as a severe setback for the month's Milan summit, which was supposed to streamline Community decision-making as a majority decision was made. When Parliament

yesterday began final discussions on the budget for the coming year, some MEPs moved that the debate should be adjourned to consider the implications of what had happened in Luxembourg.

They demanded that the Agriculture Commissioner, Mr Andriessen, and possibly Mr

THE ITALIAN Prime Minister, Mr Bettino Craxi, and President Francois Mitterrand of France met in Florence yesterday to discuss prospects for ambitious reforms of the European Community.

Mr Craxi, who will preside at a meeting of Community leaders in Milan this month, hopes the talks will reveal whether President Mitterrand is prepared to support an Italian-backed plan for a conference on reforms. — Reuters.

Delors should make a statement. Some wanted the president and Council of Ministers officials to be summoned.

In a strongly applauded statement Mr Andriessen said the Commission was upset because it had not expected that a majority of members could settle for the Commission's compromise. That a majority of members had abstained because one member had blocked the more disappointing

Mr Andriessen said that the Commission would guarantee that the Common Agricultural Policy continued to operate. CAP's future was not at stake, and the Commission would manage the markets "as a good husband should."

He promised that the Commission would stick with its original position "in the toughest possible manner."

There is speculation here that the Commission will seek to enforce the price cuts which West Germany is rejecting.

A West German MEP, Mr Reinhold Böckel, who argued that his country had been faced with a difficult situation and had had no alternative was jeered and heckled.

After Parliament approved the Community budget, the budget committee spokesman, Mr Ove Fien, said that only 745,000 units of account were left to be spent without exceeding the ceiling.

British Labour MPs voted to reject totally the budget. The former group leader, Mrs Barbara Castle, said that if Parliament had any pride and dignity it would once again send the budget back, especially after the damage done by the Germans.

Parliament should say to the Council of Ministers if there is no farm price settlement, which we can approve then there is no budget. The budget, as amended, was approved by 234 votes to 40, with eight abstentions.

Farm veto 'forced' on Bonn

Bonn: The West German agriculture Minister, Mr Ignaz Kiechle, yesterday blamed the European Commission for Bonn's use of its veto to block an accord on grain prices, but said the move would not cause lasting political damage.

Defending his decision to cast Bonn's first veto since it joined the EEC in 1957, Mr Kiechle said the Commission had wanted a "trial of strength" with West Germany

and refused to seek a compromise. The veto was used because Bonn said national interests were at stake.

He admitted that there had been opposition to the veto within the Government and he moved away from official government policy by saying that he opposed the idea of majority voting within the Community.

The veto plunged the Community into a new crisis by

blocking introduction of a 1.8 per cent cut in cereals prices for farmers.

Mr Kiechle told a press conference: "This was not an easy decision for us. But the (Community) council of ministers and above all the Commission, cannot deny their responsibility for the situation which has arisen."

He said the commission had committed itself far too firmly to a cereals price cut

Quixote victory in the wind

CAMPO DE CRIPTANA: Where Don Quixote failed time and neglect have scored a victory. Spain's windmills are falling down.

Ten whitewashed windmills dot the parched hills overlooking this tiny village in La Mancha, which most historians agree was chosen by novelist Miguel de Cervantes as the site for his knight errant's ill-fated battle against "30 or 40 giants."

Only three of these are original 16th century windmills from the days of Don Quixote. Ms Dolores Madrid, president of the Noble Association of Friends of the Windmills, said:

"The other seven were donated in the 1950s by several Latin American countries in tribute to Don Quixote, Cervantes' classic work about a confused but noble knight who seeks adventure with his squire Sancho Panza."

Countries like Argentina and Chile realised the need to preserve our vanishing windmills," she said.

The regional government of La Mancha has agreed to provide 11 million pesetas (\$497,717) to restore the three original windmills.

"That took quite a bit of arm-twisting. Spaniards don't understand the historic value of these monuments," she said, admitting that she has never read Don Quixote.

Campo de Criptana voted to contribute five million pesetas (\$200,000) towards the restoration work.

Ms Madrid's father was the last miller in this wine- and wheat-growing village of 14,000 inhabitants, the mecca of windmill enthusiasts.

"When my father died, the last of the windmills began to fall into disrepair," Ms Madrid said.

The Association cannot afford the wages of Mr Jose Moreno Rodriguez, the region's last living windmill repairman. — Reuters.

Coalition in pact on law and order

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

The leaders of the three-party government coalition, emerging from talks on the government's performance yesterday with an agreement on controversial law-and-order issues.

The meeting between Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democrats' leader, Mr Franz Josef Strauss, the right-wing Bavarian CSU chairman, and the Liberal leader, Mr Martin Bangemann, was called after criticism of the Chancellor's alleged weak leadership, particularly from the CSU.

It produced agreement on tightening laws on demonstrations and the introduction of computer-readable identity cards.

These were issues on which the CSU had pressed Dr Kohl to act, and which are rejected by sections of the small liberal Free Democratic Party.

A review of asylum legislation and the treatment of immigrant workers was delayed, mainly because Chancellor Kohl's intended visit to Turkey next month, during which he hopes to receive Ankara's consent to curbing the free movement of foreign workers into Germany from 1986.

The tripartite meeting, called after the Christian Democrats' dismal performance in

the state elections, produced no ready remedies for the most pressing problem of reducing unemployment, which the cabinet wants to tackle at a special session on July 1.

The most significant of the proposals worked out yesterday, which are subject to parliamentary confirmation, provides for prison terms of up to one year or fines for masked demonstrators who refuse to disperse. It also allows police to take off hats, scarves, or headscarves, or hand over "passive weapons" such as stones, knives and iron bars.

The introduction of identity cards, which can be linked to the police computer, has long been controversial, but according to yesterday's agreement will be finalised during the present parliamentary term. Changes in liberal divorce laws are also envisaged.

Reuters adds from Vienna: The Polish Foreign Minister, Mr Stefan Olszowski, said in Vienna yesterday that his country did not object to a planned rally of exiles from Silesia, former German territory that came under Polish rule after the Second World War.

But he said Poland would closely follow speeches at the controversial meeting on Sunday in Hanover, to see if they challenged the validity of Poland's present frontiers.

US assesses spy scandal damage

Washington: The investigation of secrets leaked in the biggest US spy scandal in decades is being expanded to assess the damage to America's military services, the Defence Department said yesterday.

The Assistant Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Burch, said that the damage was believed to have been caused by the navy but that the army had also begun an internal assessment and the air force was setting up an investigation team.

Four retired or active US navy personnel, including a former communications expert, Mr John Walker, have been arrested since May 20. Admiral James Watkins said on Tuesday that Moscow may have intercepted navy voice and printed messages as a result of the alleged spying.

While the services often communicate with each other on the same basic equipment,

Mr Burch said that differences in components would help avoid any big breach among all services.

As a result of the Walker case, the services are going back and looking at that point in time during which there may have been exchanges of information, there may have been communications, Mr Burch said.

As they do that, they will assess any possible damage that may have been done and what might have been compromised during that period. Independent of that, they are all reviewing the procedures by which they handled information.

The navy has been conducting an investigation and Admiral Watkins said on Tuesday that very serious damage had been done. Millions of dollars were being spent on communications and other changes, he said.

Grocer kills three boys suspected of stealing

From Jane Rosen in New York

The proprietor of a Brooklyn grocery store shot four black teenagers, killing three of them, reportedly because he thought one boy was trying to steal a 25-cent bottle of soda.

Late on Wednesday night, two boys entered the little neighbourhood store in a low income, mainly black Brooklyn neighbourhood and one of them took the soda bottle from a shelf and then dropped it by mistake.

The proprietor, a 27-year-old Arab immigrant from Yemen, demanded payment; the boy said he was not to blame for breaking the bottle. A shouting match began and the proprietor pulled a gun, shot both boys and then fired at two other boys who happened to be in the store at the time.

When police arrived, two of the boys were already dead, the third died in hospital a

few hours later and the fourth is still in hospital with a gunshot wound in his left eye. The victims were between 14 and 19 years old.

News of the shootings spread and an angry crowd surrounded the store, throwing stones through the windows until police came.

Although, at first, there were comparisons to the so-called "subway avenger," Bernhard Goetz, who is awaiting trial for shooting four youths who allegedly accosted him, police say the case is very different.

In contrast with the Goetz case, a policeman said yesterday, "nobody was threatening the Brooklyn proprietor."

"Maybe he was thinking of Bernie Goetz, but nobody was attempting to rob him, and the boys evidently weren't even carrying weapons. The proprietor just seemed to go berserk."

Alfonsin struggles to cut inflation

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

The Argentine Government released details of its revised standby loan programme with the International Monetary Fund as reports suggested that President Alfonsin was about to introduce the most far-reaching financial reform for several decades.

The IMF Plan is aimed at curbing inflation, estimated at between 28 and 35 per cent this month, to 8 per cent when the agreement expires on March 31 next year.

To achieve this, the Government is expected to cut public spending, and reduce the budget deficit to no more than 6 per cent of gross domestic product. It also plans to raise prices charged by loss-making state corporations.

Most controversial of all will probably be a sharp departure from past monetary policies. The Government will have to set interest rates above inflation,

abandoning the cheap credit policies that have become customary in Argentina, and monetary growth will be held to half the accompanying rate of inflation.

A complex array of multiple exchange rates will be ended in favour of just one that would be set by the world market, and perhaps even the introduction of a new currency.

Details of the standby terms were issued after the Government paid \$250 million from reserves to repay interest arrears due on the \$48 billion foreign debt mountain, in an attempt to make Western governments agree on a plan to bridge the \$450 million gap.

The government promised to eliminate a \$3.4 billion backlog in debt payments during the next nine months.

Reagan taxes patience of an enthusiastic crowd

From Alex Brummer in Bloomfield, New Jersey

PRESIDENT Reagan yesterday ventured as close to the high tax state of New York as he dared to sell his tax reform plan but, in the process, managed to subdue an enthusiastic crowd with a mass of confusing figures.

Seeking to counter mounting criticism of the plan on Capitol Hill, Mr Reagan told the largely partisan crowd that his plan to shake up the American tax system "will not increase the deficit nor will it be used to raise revenue."

He also promised to veto the plan if Congress at-

tempted to use it to raise taxes. Earlier this week the Republican majority leader in the Senate, Mr Robert Dole, warned that Congress may be forced to raise taxes to reduce the burgeoning budget deficits.

About 15,000 residents of this 300-year-old township gathered at the Municipal Centre to see their hero President. They screamed with enthusiasm on his arrival and the high school band belted out *Hail to the Chief*, but they were quickly silenced as he sought to explain how residents of New Jersey would save money if his plan were adopted.

If the Founding Fathers had been faced with a similar lack of populist fervour when plotting the first American revolution against the British, it would have certainly failed, and the British economy may have been saved. There were certainly no indications that the "second American revolution" — which Mr Reagan promised yesterday "will encourage economic growth" — was lighting a fire under even his most loyal supporters in this solid right democratic community.

Bloomfield's mayor, who introduced Mr Reagan yesterday, publicly opposed the tax

plan's proposal to remove the relief now available to all taxpayers on state and local government taxes including rates. This view was echoed in New Jersey's leading newspaper, the *Star-Ledger*, which called on the President to alter this provision of the tax plan arguing that the state and local tax deduction was "eminently fair."

The public reaction in New Jersey, which compared to its big neighbour New York, has much lower taxes, was considered particularly important to the White House if Mr Reagan's plan is to succeed on Capitol Hill. If

the state and local tax deductions were removed from the tax reform bill so would \$35 billion of revenue and it would become a political dead duck.

With his now almost grey hair waving in the wind, Mr Reagan appeared to relish being out on the stump again, but the crowd appeared surprised at how the 74-year-old President had aged. "Boy doesn't he look old," exclaimed one woman nearby as she cheered him with undiminished gusto.

Among the largely friendly crowd there were a smattering of protesters expressing concern about US policy

towards Central America. "No more Vietnam," proclaimed one of the placards.

The President's general approach in this middle-class suburban community close to the poor industrial city of Newark was to use the "outsider" appeal to the people which succeeded in his two presidential election campaigns. "The sharks are circling our tax plan and trying to take a bite," Mr Reagan said.

"We happen to have a fool-proof plan to repel in the will of the American people," the President said with a flourish. "But your voice must be heard."

Advertisement

تظاهرة
ايها المسلمون:
شاركوا في احياء يوم القدس

In The Name Of Allah

DEMONSTRATION

QUDS DAY

JERUSALEM (AL 'QUDS) has been under occupation and virtual annexation since 1967 following the Six Day War. Since then, pilgrimage to the holy city has become almost impossible.

Concern about Zionist intentions has been expressed by Imam Khomeini, who has declared his total commitment to the liberation of Jerusalem so that it becomes accessible to the followers of all religions. On the Islamic calendar, steps towards this aim is the designation of the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadhan as the DAY OF QUDS (JERUSALEM). The Imam has made it a duty of Muslims on this day to express their feelings and commitments towards the holy shrines in the occupied city.

You are thus invited to a demonstration on this occasion which will be successful only with your active participation.

ASSEMBLY POINT: Clerkenwell Green
London EC1
(nearest Tube station: Farringdon)

TIME: 1.00 pm
Saturday 15 June 1985

United Islamic Students Association in Europe (UK).
115 PO Box 13,
KEYNSHAM, BRISTOL

'Interruptions' threat to inauguration ceremony

Swapo ready to fight new SA regime in Namibia

By Michael Simmons

Representatives of Swapo said in London yesterday that there would be "interruptions" to Monday's inauguration ceremony for a South African-installed transitional government in Namibia. They also declared that if such a regime took office it would be rejected as illegitimate by the people of Namibia. "We will mobilise to oppose and resist," Mr. Hideo Hamutenya, the organisation's information secretary, said. "The only choice open to us is to fight."

He described the new administration as a delaying tactic by the South Africans, enabling them to buy time and gain a few benefits for themselves. "They will drive fast cars, wearing new suits, but they won't be able to bring any change to the country's socio-economic situation," he said.

Five British Conservative MPs have indicated that they will be attending the ceremony, expenses paid by South Africa, despite a qualified rejection of Pretoria's policies by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

A Labour MP, Mr. Robert Hughes, has written to the Conservative Party chairman, Mr. Selwyn Gummer, asking him publicly to dissociate the party from the MPs' action.

Reports from the United Nations yesterday that Cuban troops now in Angola might be drafted to give "massive assistance" to Swapo to reignite their armed struggle against the South Africans. Mr. Hamutenya said Swapo was aware that such an offer was on the table, but he had not accepted it yet.

In the continuing UN Security Council debate, the Angolan Foreign Minister, Mr. Alfonso van Dunen, has reinforced the Angolan view that the South Africans should leave Namibia and that there should be a ceasefire between South Africa and Swapo. He rejected as "obstructionist" the notion of a linkage, which the Namibians' independence to the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

The US ambassador, Mr. Jose Sorzano, told the Security Council that the Reagan Administration remained confident that the gap could be bridged.

Mr. Hamutenya, on the other hand, said he saw linkage continuing for as long as President Reagan remained in power. "But we are confident the transitional government will collapse within three years," he said.

Mr. Hamutenya, who had arrived overnight from Luanda for a seven-day stay, said he hoped to see Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, the minister responsible for African affairs. The Foreign Office said last night that such a meeting could not be ruled out — though Swapo, a spokesman said, represented only one shade of political opinion in Namibia.

Reverend John Mubanga, a South African Defence Force spokesman, said yesterday that Angolan accusations of massed South African troops along its border were propaganda. He said South Africa had four motorised brigades and 15 battalions with 20,000 men in position in Namibia and such activity in the past had indicated an invasion was being prepared.

ANC guerrillas plan to hold secret talks

Lusaka: The African National Congress, the main guerrilla group fighting white minority rule in South Africa, plans to hold its biggest conference since 1969 at a secret venue on Sunday.

The ANC said yesterday that delegates would discuss the background to mounting violence in South Africa and the role of the banned group, which claims widespread black support.

The 10-day meeting would be held at a secret venue in southern Africa. Sources close to the ANC said that it would not be held in Lusaka where the organisation had its administrative headquarters.

The meeting was not expected to result in any changes in the ANC's basic aims or policies, they added. The ANC is committed to overthrowing white minority rule, abolishing

apartheid and setting up a multiracial government.

The sources said that some of the 200 delegates would be coming from South Africa and their views on the "disinvestment" campaign would be heard with special interest.

The ANC strongly supports the campaign for the withdrawal of foreign capital from South Africa, although some anti-apartheid groups oppose it, saying that it will make poor blacks even poorer.

The sources refuse to speculate on whether the meeting might rethink the ANC position on violence.

The ANC recently pledged to step up its campaign of violence and has claimed responsibility for a number of bomb attacks, but violence was not expected to be an issue at the meeting. The necessity of military as well as political struggle was universally accepted by the group, sources said.

The growing role of the trade union movement would be high on the agenda, the sources said, as the ANC believed that increasing political awareness of working class blacks was of great importance in its fight against white rule.

Sudanese trek south for food

From Ed Hooper in Darfur, Western Sudan

BETWEEN 300,000 and 500,000 of Darfur's 3.2 million inhabitants are believed to have been displaced by drought and the desert is encroaching from the north. Some have gone to Khartoum or Gedra to look for work, others have emigrated to South Sudan, where the lucky ones are taken in by friends and the unfortunate camp out in the wadis.

Many people have merely retreated to villages or relief camps just a few miles away from their homes. As one technical expert puts it: "The farmers are voting with their feet—they know the north is unworkable."

As malnutrition and starvation set in the local economy is collapsing. The southward migration of these remaining herds means that in some southern villages, cattle are being sold for as little as £2.50 and goats for 75p. Meanwhile, 250 of sorghum, the staple food, in the market place, costs 50p or more.

In Nyala, a town made rich by the arrival of the railway in 1930 and the subsequent export of cattle and millet, women now

leave the tubers of rashes, and pods from the Baobab tree. The kernels of mango and baobab fruits are ground to make flour.

Further south the problems are just as great. About 120,000 Chadians have crossed the border, fleeing their own famine in the Achebe region. Attracted by rumours of relief food, they are arriving at Angkilo camp at the rate of 2,700 each day.

The camp authorities are overwhelmed. They cannot keep pace with registration, let alone feed the newcomers when stocks are insufficient

cause water-holes have run dry, are even worse off. A recent Oxfam survey suggests that most villagers have received less than 13lbs of food aid since the relief programme began in December.

This represents a daily energy intake of less than 70 calories compared to the 1,700 needed for normal sedentary living. Agencies ago- rised famine calls in Ethiopia. The US Agency for International Development began formulating a relief programme in November,

even for the "official" population. There have been epidemics of measles and bloody diarrhoea. Even a mile away from the first shelters of cardboard, sucking and tin, the smell is appalling.

The people stranded in the villages, who can no longer reach the relief camps be-

and within a month the first emergency food aid had reached Nyala, with Britain's Save the Children and taking charge of distribution.

US aid officials privately hoped to bring in 70,000 tons of sorghum by the end of May — more, if possible, as buffer-stocks against the rains expected this month. But only 20,000 tons arrived, representing about 22lbs over a six-month period for each of the 2.8 million Darfuris in need.

When Sudan's leader, General Swareddahab, visited Nyala at the end of last month, he promised that three trains, bearing 1,500 tons of grain, would soon arrive every day, and that Darfuris could expect a daily ration of 1.5lbs of sorghum, which would represent about a 10-fold increase in the present delivery rate.

Although such rates are clearly unattainable, a camp worker, Jim Carl, finds them a realistic appraisal of the region's needs. "They require 210,000 tons up to November," he says, "and the shortfall in international pledges is minimal. The question is how to get it to Darfur."



Donkey caravan: Ethiopians at Isnet relief camp load up donkeys donated by the US-based World Vision International to enable 10,000 families to return home to the Wollo region

Suzman calls for Le Grange resignation

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

The veteran opposition MP, Mrs Helen Suzman, yesterday demanded the resignation of the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, and punitive action against police whose actions led to the killing of 20 blacks at Langa on March 21.

Mr le Grange was at the top of her "hit list for punitive action" she said during a debate in Parliament on the Kanne Meyer commission's findings on the Langa shootings.

cannot escape the fact that, in the last resort, responsibility for the ghastly happenings at Langa rests on his shoulders."

She called on the police board of inquiry established to consider the findings of Mr Justice Kanne Meyer to identify the police officers responsible for the actions leading to the Langa tragedy.

Mr Surman, of the Progressive Federal Party, added: "Punitive measures must ensue. It cannot be left for blacks to say that the police get away with murder."

Recalling that no-one had been found responsible for the death in detention of the black consciousness leader, Mr Steve Biko, she said: "Let us not have another Biko (affair) to dog us through the years."

All charges against blacks shot at Langa should be withdrawn and ex gratia compensation offered to the families of the dead and wounded, in the interests of establishing better relations between the police and black community.

Mr D. le Roux, the ruling National Party MP for the white town of Uitenhage near Langa, said: "Mr Justice Kanne Meyer had rejected allegations of police misconduct made in a PPF report on the shooting, citing the judge's rejection of charges that police had shot wounded people and had not fired a warning shot."

Mr le Grange yesterday reiterated that the African National Congress was responsible for the greatest attacks earlier this week on the homes of two coloured MPs, despite a denial by the ANC.

India to get US high-tech weapons

From Don Oberdorfer in Washington

The Reagan Administration has decided to provide advanced military technology and weaponry to India in an attempt to end a 20-year gap in large-scale US military sales.

The new policy, which is conditional on Indian acceptance of strict safeguards, became known as President Reagan and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, met at the White House on Wednesday.

Defence officials said the Administration's decision goes beyond the agreement on the supply of civilian technology signed by the two countries last month. India now obtains nearly all its imported defence equipment from the Soviet Union.

Mr Reagan welcomed the new Indian leader on the White House South Lawn during a visit to the White House by about 1,500 members of the US community of Sikhs.

Mr Gandhi and the Indian Defence Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, are expected to discuss military technology at meetings today, with the Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, and General John Vessey, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

US officials expressed interest last month in obtaining sophisticated US military technology for advanced surveillance and fighter aircraft, air defence and anti-submarine weapons, and electronic warfare equipment, among other things.

The Administration is willing in principle to sell the Indians advanced technology and equipment, but has not passed judgment on any specific weapon or system.

The United States will insist on Indian acceptance of tight safeguards to prevent leakage of American defence secrets to the Soviet Union or other countries, officials said.

Strict US conditions on Indian use of US-supplied nuclear fuel resulted in a breakdown of bilateral nuclear relations, and other US conditions led to the failure of negotiations in the 1980s on the sale of US missiles, howitzers and machineguns.

Large-scale US arms sales to India ended at the outbreak of the India-Pakistan war of 1965. An intermittent US embargo on such sales to India and inability to agree on terms when sales were permitted has curbed arms relations between the two countries.

In his talks with Mr Reagan, Mr Gandhi raised India's objections to the US supplying weapons to Pakistan under a six-year programme.

Mr Reagan replied, according to a White House account, that the arms to Pakistan were intended to protect it against threats arising from Afghanistan and to let it assure its security without turning to nuclear weapons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Glacier battle flares

INDIAN troops beat off an attempt by Pakistani commandos to seize a glacier on the disputed northern border between the two countries and the Pakistanis suffered heavy casualties, Indian newspapers said yesterday.

The Indian Defence Ministry neither confirmed nor denied reports that Indian soldiers repulsed Pakistani infantry and commandos trying to take the Slachen glacier in Kashmir's Nubra Valley.

The Hindu newspaper in Madras said the battle flared on June 8, 11 days after Pakistani forces attempted to capture an Indian border post in the region. It linked the glacier battle to the current US visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.—Reuter.

Trial resumes

THE trial of Mr Kenneth Clark and Mr Angus Patten, two British engineers held in Nigeria for over a year on charges of stealing an aircraft, resumed in Lagos yesterday after their plea that they had already been tried and freed failed. They are also accused of helping a British pilot and his girlfriend to fly the executive jet out of Nigeria against regulations banning private flights during a currency change.—Reuter.

Fingered

ISRAELI radio stations yesterday broadcast urgent appeals for a man to reclaim a finger he lost in a work accident. The man went to a Haifa hospital, but fellow workers who found his finger took it to another hospital 12 miles away, and when doctors tried to reunite finger and owner he had already left hospital.—Reuter.

Briton held

JOHN Michael, aged 27, from Liverpool, was arrested at Spain's Malaga airport yesterday after police said they found 8.8lb of pure heroin worth \$2.7 million on the street, in a suitcase compartment of his suitcase. Police believe the heroin, thought to be from India, was meant for distribution along the Costa del Sol.—AP.

Lava tumble

A geologist who fell into molten lava in Hawaii's Kilauea volcano was reported to be in a satisfactory condition in hospital. Staff at the US Geological Survey's volcano observatory said 51-year-old George Ulrich, who was wearing a heat-resistant suit, was plucked from the 2,000 ft lava by a fellow scientist.—AP.

Rape curfew

PAPUA New Guinea is to clamp a state of emergency on the capital, Port Moresby, to combat a wave of violent crime which has included seven rapes in the past week. "Robbery, murder and rape have become almost commonplace events," Prime Minister, Michael Somare, said.—Reuter.

Guilty unionist

NORM Gallagher, head of one of Australia's most militant building trade unions, the Builders' Labourers' Federation, was found guilty yesterday in Melbourne on 20 counts of receiving secret payments. Union members walked off building sites in protest at the verdict.—Reuter.

Spots change

THE three male giraffes at the zoo in Taiwan's capital, Taipei, turned grey after their female companion died, the zoo keeper said yesterday. The zoo is now considering importing female giraffes from Africa because it is running out of explanations for children visiting it.—Reuter.

Free milk

MASKED Peruvian guerrillas commandeered a dairy delivery lorry, and distributed about 1,200 gallons of free milk to children in a Lima slum. Police said yesterday the four armed rebels gave out the milk while making megaphone appeals for support.—Reuter.

Rights theft

THEVES have raided the offices of El Salvador's human rights organisation and stolen files on disappearances and political assassinations over the past six years, a commission spokesman said.—AP.

Drone downed

ISRAELI yesterday shot down a Syrian Drone on the Israel-Lebanon border, and military sources said it was the first time Israel had shot one down in more than a year.—Reuter.

Crash kills 35

AN express train collided with a freight train in the northern Pto. It occurred yesterday, killing 35 people and injuring 40.—AP.

Urquhart talks to Syria on pull-out

Damascus: The United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Mr Brian Urquhart, had talks yesterday with Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr Farouq al-Shara to try to find a way to bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the Syrian news agency, Sana said.

Mr Urquhart, who earlier visited Israel and Beirut, is involved in negotiations for the release of 21 Finnish United Nations peacekeepers who were abducted by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army on Friday.

Sana said his talks here focused on the situation in Lebanon, and UN's role in bringing about a "total, unconditional" Israeli withdrawal.

Syria does not believe Israeli statements that all its troops have completed their withdrawal.

● Brian Urquhart: helping to free Finnish troops

drawal. It wants UN troops deployed to the Israeli border. Israel has left military "advisers" to help the SLA police a security zone from which it has barred UN since the force went to Lebanon in 1978.

In Haisinki, there was a statement that the 21 Finns might be released soon. A Defence Ministry spokesman, Lt-Col Vesa Yrjola, the chief of the UN office at the ministry, said yesterday that a constructive atmosphere had been created in negotiations for their freedom.

"There is no cause to be overly optimistic. We are not celebrating any success as yet," Finland has called for action by Israel and the UN to secure the men's release.

Colonel Yrjola said the situation of the hostages had improved. They could now receive visits from military observers and get supplies from the Finnish battalion in South Lebanon.

The UN spokesman, Mr Timor Gotsel, said the meeting took place near Tyre, which is controlled by Amal.

Fighting continued in South Lebanon yesterday. Israeli-backed militiamen shelled a Muslim Shiite village in retaliation for a rocket attack on a Christian village, Israeli radio reported.

The UN condemned the attack and said one house was damaged in Yater. A Shiite village on the edge of a zone controlled by Irish troops AP/Reuter.

Militants to march despite ban

CAIRO: Muslim fundamentalists plan to demonstrate today to demand implementation of Islamic law in Egypt despite warnings by the authorities that they will deal firmly with the demonstration.

Sheikh Hafez Salama, arrested in a September, 1981, crackdown on religious extremists, has called on Muslims to march after prayers from the Al-Noor mosque in central Cairo to the office of the President, Mr Hosni Mubarak, at Oruba Palace to press for a strict interpretation of Muslim law. Egypt's population of 48 million is overwhelmingly Muslim.

The Interior Ministry has issued several statements reminding Egyptians that emergency laws enacted after the 1981 assassination of President Sadat ban unauthorized rallies, demonstrations and assemblies.

The Interior Minister, Mr Ahmed Rashid, said the statement had been issued so that "honourable citizens do not find themselves involved, with these rash people who want these demonstrations to serve their personal purposes."

The call by Sheikh Salama, head of the Islamic Guidance Society, is the latest sign of agitation by Islamic fundamentalists.

US to give \$250m package to Jordan

From Michael White in Washington

In its effort to keep the Middle East peace initiative moving, the Reagan Administration yesterday decided to press ahead with a \$250 million package of economic aid for Jordan, but placed a more controversial request for arms worth \$750 million on the back-burner.

Despite the Administration's enthusiasm for King Hussein's efforts, Congress will remain overwhelmingly sceptical until the Jordanian actually sits down to direct negotiations with Israel. No fewer than 72 senators have now signed a motion opposing military sales until that occurs, while other congressmen oppose economic assistance as well.

The Administration is, however, committed to helping the King, and wished to reward him for his efforts to bring the PLO into the negotiating process. According to reports here, there was a sharp disagreement at the highest official level as to how far President Reagan should go.

The Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, made a passionate plea that he should seek the military aid as well, even at the risk of rebuff from Congress.

This view was successfully resisted by the now familiar partnership of the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the National Security Adviser, Mr Robert McFarlane, arguing that a rebuff would hurt both Mr Reagan and the King, with whom he has established such cordial relations during the recent visit to Washington.

Six killed in raids on Iran cities

Bahrain: Iraq said its planes have raided nine Iranian towns and cities during the past two days. Iran said six people were killed and 30 wounded.

Iraq said jets hit Tehran twice and two towns in the north-west. Three cities — Karand, Dezful and Kermanshah — and three villages were hit in attacks yesterday morning. All the planes returned safely to base, a spokesman said.

It was the 50th Iraqi air raid against Tehran since March, when Iraq started bombing Iranian cities in an attempt to force Iran to accept a ceasefire in the war, now in its 57th month.

Iraq resumed its air raids with almost nightly attacks on Tehran 18 days ago after a lull of seven weeks, vowing to intensify them until Iran accepts peace.

Iran's national news agency, IRNA, said four people were killed and 10 injured on the raid on Tehran which destroyed six houses.

US to give \$250m package to Jordan

Israel — whose present economic needs have just won the Administration's backing for a further \$1.5 billion — might abandon his peace proposals without something to show for them, this appears to have enraged the Administration to split the difference.

Accordingly, the \$250 million economic package, spread over two years, is about to be sought from Congress, but not the often-postponed Jordanian shopping list for F-20 or F-16 fighters, helicopters and Hawk and Stinger missiles.

Yesterday, however, it was not clear whether the economic package would be sent to the Senate appropriation committee immediately, or after further groundwork has been done to ensure its success.

Reuter adds from Amman: Jordan yesterday condemned the hijacking and destruction of a Jordanian airliner by Shiite Muslims in Beirut.

Crew members and eight security guards on board the Royal Jordanian Airline (Alia) Boeing 727 when it was seized on Tuesday have now arrived in Amman.

Blow for Philippines prosecution

Manila: The court hearing the Benigno Aquino assassination case ruled yesterday against accepting the testimony of the armed forces chief, General Fabian Ver, and seven other soldiers as evidence against them. A judge conceded it might be a fatal blow to the case against General Ver.

The three-judge court accepted all other evidence introduced by the prosecution against 26 defendants during nearly four months of the trial.

The evidence rejected by the court consisted of statements made to the commission that investigated Mr Aquino's assassination. Prosecutors admit they have little other evidence against General Ver and his associates.

The accepted evidence includes two reports by a fact-finding board, which military lawyers had tried to exclude, saying they were more opinion than fact.

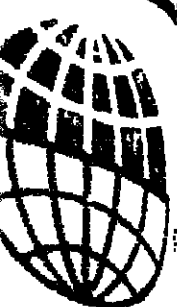
General Ver, Major-General Prospero Olivas, and six others are charged as accessories. Seventeen soldiers are charged as conspirators and one civilian is accused as an accomplice.

"The right not to be compelled to incriminate oneself is one of the great landmarks in man's struggle to make himself civilised," said Mr Justice Manuel Pandan.

Based mostly on this testimony, the board's majority report cited 21 points, alleging that General Ver was part of an attempt by the military to cover up its part in the assassination. A separate report by the board's chairman said General Ver should not be charged.

Military defence lawyers who are due to open their case on Tuesday unless the prosecution decides to call more witnesses, had asked the court to exclude nearly all of the evidence presented by the prosecution, as hearsay, and immaterial.—AP.

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THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY

Getty's timely lesson for Gowrie

THE dramatic intervention by Paul Getty yesterday throws into stark relief the poverty of support for the arts in Britain. The starting figure of his endowment to the National Gallery is £20 million. That is seven times the total funding that the Government in its latest round of cuts had allowed the National Gallery for new acquisitions.

That, incidentally, could only have extended to paying for a third of the last Turner sold in a London sale. The ultimate figure of Getty's gift is at £50 million, half of the entire Arts Council funding for the whole of the UK.

It is a sad and savage commentary that it has required this intervention to bail us out in the latest monetarist-created crisis. For it comes at the very time that the Arts Council is facing a sudden collapse of funding due to Government ineptitude and meanness.

Perhaps the comparative silence following last week's devastating disclosure of the consequences of the abolition of the Metropolitan counties and the GLC was due to the quite astonishing understatement made by Sir William Rees-Mogg. He had said, in strict Mandarin language, that he was "seriously concerned". In fact, however, he, and the Arts Council, and the performing arts in Britain as a whole, are now facing a catastrophe, totally unexpected and unprecedented in scale.

The Government's decision to abolish these local authorities was a political decision

Millions more from Getty; millions less from Lord Gowrie, Norman Buchan, shadow spokesman for the arts, on the money that will disappear with the Metropolitan Counties

sion motivated by pique, and compounded by their failure to do their sums. They reversed any normal procedure by making a decision first and then trying to cope with the problems this created. Inevitably, judgments were hasty and inaccurate; but pledges had to be given.

In the case of the Arts, Lord Gowrie pledged that "the arts have nothing to fear from this abolition", and promised a £16 million increase on Arts Council funding to replace the money lost with the ending of GLC and Met support. These, after all, had been among the most generous of all local authorities towards the arts. Among other things, because of the administrative vacuum the government bill was creating for London, the Arts Council were to take over the running of the South Bank.

The £16 million of "replacement money" has turned out to be frightfully short of the true figure. The sums have now been done, and the real figure turns out to be, not £16 million, but £46 million — a staggering shortfall of £30 million.

The Minister's reaction to this was twofold. One was his response, described in the

press as a "cool response," to the plea of the Arts Council. The other was apparently to give a private briefing to the lobby that the arts budget had gone up by 18 per cent in real terms since 1978/79, and was going up by 15 per cent in this coming year.

Both figures are, of course, nonsense. The 18 per cent has already been refuted. It was due, firstly, to the bizarre circumstances of the computer strike of that year, which led to the late payment of part of the inherited Labour programme. That of itself reduces his 18 per cent claim by a third. And secondly, the one-off boost of 10 per cent in the pre-election year of 1982/83 (which, incidentally, was followed by a cut two months after the election).

Quite apart from the latest bombshell, the truth is that since the election the real "growth" has been less than 1 per cent. But the continuing cost of the Frisley Report; the cost of the new development money for the Glory of the Garden; the extra funds required for the takeover of the South Bank; the additional cost due to the switch in local authority funding from

regions to districts — because of all these factors, mainly Government created, we had been facing the prospect of a collapse in real terms of between 8 and 10 per cent in Arts Council funds.

It follows that the "15 per cent next year" is equally spurious — even as a promise. It was not such money. It was not additional money. It was simply the amount estimated as necessary to replace the money lost to the Arts by the abolition proposals. It reflected therefore a large minus increase.

Faced by the chorus of dismay from theatre directors and others in the Arts who see their work withering around them, Lord Gowrie plaintively repeats: "18 per cent in real terms!" He is like the lady in Stendhal who, caught by her husband in flagrante delicto with her lover, replies with indignation to his accusations: "Do you dare to believe the evidence of your own eyes rather than trust my word?"

Now that 10 per cent fall looks small indeed. The £30 million shortfall is almost one third of the entire Arts Council budget. It is a figure equal to the entire annual cost of all our "national" companies put together — Covent Garden, the Royal Shakespeare, the National Theatre and English National Opera. It is a cost nearly three times greater than the grant given to the Regional Arts Associations throughout the whole of England. It is a cost that cannot be borne.

Nancy Banks-Smith on last night's television Teresa's trials and tribulations

THE judge's husband appeared in court. He was swinging an empty bottle menacingly from one hand like a man undecided whether to point out that there was an old mill in the stream or to tell Kathleen that he was taking her home again.

Seeing suddenly for the second time that he was taking his wife home, he elaborated on this proposition with word and gesture, touching on the state of the ironing and other domestic matters germane to his argument. The bench of judges took it badly. "Sit down," said one. "Sign this paper," said another. Kathleen (whose name happens to be Teresa) stood up. "I'll go home with my husband."

From the perspective of the court, their voices carried back clearly. "Shame me before my colleagues," "You're in court every damn day!" The revolution. "Damn the revolution. Who's going to iron the clothes and look after the children?" The Sunday Judge (BBC 2) directed by Adam Low was an endearing dramatization of a Mozambique court, performed with some brio by the local people. These judges, magistrates might be nearer the mark, all have jobs during the week. One, outstanding for his radiant good humour, was a taxidermist which leads me to suppose your jollity is in inverse ratio to your job. They are elected by local people to save out their troubles on a Sunday when none of them will lose money by attending. A system of such good horse sense you could hang a nose-bag on it.

The court could hardly be simpler or taken more seriously. A wooden table was ceremoniously carried into a large yard. Early arrivals, five minute children and one large woman stood to attend

tion as the national flag was raised. The large woman was so that the children as bones stand to attention but flesh stands easy.

Marist Mozambique, precipitated into startled independence 10 years ago, believes in the emancipation of women. Instead of having children and looking after the husband, the house and the hens, women are now free to take a job and have children, look after the husband, the house and the hens.

Teresa, who works in a cashew factory during the week, is also a judge on Sundays. There is not a liberated woman alive who will not recognise the scene where Teresa, returning to a scene of idyllic calm (one child dreamily feeding the hens, another avidly reading Teresa's court files, her husband breathing quietly in paper) instantly reduces it to crumbs and recrimination ("Stop that! Why don't you tell the children off? This house is so disorganised. Where's my file? Oh God!").

Sunday Judge ended with Teresa and her husband in court themselves at the receiving end of a licking off from the taxidermist ("Take better care of your husband"). "It was hard to criticise each other in public. I'll remember that next time I judge a case," she said and settled down in the court hut to work on her files. Predictably the caretaker said he was looking up but added warmly, "I enjoyed your case. I enjoyed it enormously." Quite the nicest thing about local justice in Mozambique is that everyone is so darn interested.

On the BBC News John Hewitt, painter of the St Baribolone Hospital mural obliterated because of its explicit male genitalia, was disconsolate. "I don't know how anyone can paint over a work of art willy-nilly."

AMBASSADORS Michael Billington

Figaro

THE Theatre of Comedy have vacated the Ambassadors. But a new management opens its account with an updated, rescored version of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* ("Commedia per musica") imported from the Croydon Warehouse and here simply called *Figaro*. The result, in Tony Britten and Nick Broadhurst's adaptation missed many of the original's underlines but still offers a sparky, lively evening far more enjoyable than the majority of overblown musicals. The Mozart-da Ponte opera is itself, of course, far less sedulous than Beaumarchais' original play which Napoleon described as "the revolution in action." But this version, by shifting the action from eighteenth-century Seville to some unidentifiable locale in the 1960s, cuts the work adrift from its social moorings.

But although you don't get much feeling of a newly-emergent class triumphing over its social superiors, this version works extremely well as a piece of ingenious farcical plotting and as a reclamation of Figaro by a team of young actor-singers (it's worth recalling that Mozart wrote the piece for a medium-sized house and a cast many of whom were in their 20s).

So Figaro, in Terence Hillier's performance, becomes a cheeky Ted not above pulling a flick-knife on the gardeners and suddenly turning it into a comb or taking over the conductor's baton (as in Brook's *Carmen*, the musicians are on stage) when hiding in the garden. And there are some funny-moment moments such as Janet Dibley's Cherubino protesting affection while standing before the Countess in sock-suspenders and trousers under his smokes. Opera buffs will hunger for real voices: I did myself at times. But Lesley Duff's Countess, soulful in a pink peignoir, sings sweetly particularly in the great aria recalling her husband's love. Stephen Tate's Count, a humiliated figure in a brocade waistcoat, also offers a firm tone and a plausible character and Prue Clarke's mischievous, trim-legged Susanna certainly makes you understand what all the fuss is about. This may be Mozart shifted into the minor key of musical comedy. But the evening has enormous spring-heeled vivacity, in Nick Broadhurst's production, and should woo an audience who wouldn't set foot inside an opera-house.



SPRING-HEELED VIVACITY: Prue Clarke (Susanna) and Lesley Duff (the Countess) in *Figaro* at the Ambassadors. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

graph structure of the poems, and vocal enhancement of the emotive connotations of the words. On the whole, the marriage of these two aspects of the work was successfully achieved.

As delivered by the mezzo soprano Sarah Walker the voice line kept pace with the fluctuations of mood in the poetry: while clarinet, cello and flute in turn separated out from the rest of the ensemble (string quartet and harp) to provide apt obbligato. Some lines were notably well

Listening to Peter Maxwell Davies's *Seven* in Nomine for wind quintet, string quartet and harp, it was like observing a team of alchemists searching for the philosophers stone, but discovering instead a club sandwich. An original in Nomine from a John Tavener mass was played at the start by vibrato-less string quartet, then followed by arrangements of it, interspersed with derivatives by John Bull and William Blitheman.

By the fifth movement the alchemical magic began to work. The scoring here (imitating the strident sound of the composer's own 18th century organ) and the circular canonic structure of the music fused into a new identity and the last movement summed it all up in a compact recitative. The work began life in 1963 as a student exercise, but grew into something memorable and obviously worth preserving.

John Buller's song cycle of three Shakespeare sonnets (receiving its first performance on the format) divided its attention between instruments' responses to the rhyme scheme, syllabic and para-

metrical figure in a brocade waistcoat, also offers a firm tone and a plausible character and Prue Clarke's mischievous, trim-legged Susanna certainly makes you understand what all the fuss is about. This may be Mozart shifted into the minor key of musical comedy. But the evening has enormous spring-heeled vivacity, in Nick Broadhurst's production, and should woo an audience who wouldn't set foot inside an opera-house.

WIGMORE HALL

Meirion Bowen

Nash

Ensemble

THIS Nash Ensemble concert began with two pieces of contemporary musical commentary, one on past music, the other on the format and texts of some Shakespeare sonnets. Their impact was quite contrasted.

GLOUCESTER

Barry Still

English

Sinfonia

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at The Colony Club:

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JENNIFER PATTERSON

on picnics:

"Sitting on a stinging nettle eating a wasp is as good a description of picnics in my memory bank as any other, add ants, rain, mud or sand and disgusting jam sandwiches and you have the whole ghastly British childhood treat."

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GRAHAM GREENE

Michael Stone on a Schaubühne bombshell in Berlin

Spoils of love

SMACK in the middle of West Berlin's annual theatre meeting, supposed to be a festival of the most remarkable current productions in the German-speaking world — excluding East Germany — the Schaubühne lobbed a little bombshell into the proceedings: the first production by its new artistic director, Luc Bondy, who succeeded Peter Stein in the job.

The shock of this production of Marivaux's *The Triumph of Love* is its sheer delight. Bondy has granted us a breather from all problems, an evening of unexcelled theatrical harmony in which everything — Karl Ernst Hermann's wonderful set, the stylish costumes by Moidele Bickel, even the coiffures, the lighting, the play itself and, naturally, the acting — combined to provide us with theatre to elicit a sigh of contentment from even the most demanding.

"We were spoilt, not taxed," said one German critic afterwards, with just a hint of a reproach. In this country, with its six classical comedies and a literary education still based on the question "What does it mean?" theatre is supposed to be a serious business or it is relegated to what is known as boulevard theatre.

But why not let yourself be spoilt for once?

The star is Jutta Lampe. She plays Princess Leonida of Sparta, out to gain the love of Agis, the rightful heir to the throne, whose family has been wronged by hers and who has been kept in hiding in some far corner of the country by the philosopher Hermocrates and his sister Leontine.

The play opens with Leonida and her confidante Corinna, played by Corinna Kirchhoff, disguising themselves as men and getting into the philosopher's residential park over a hedge, about 16ft high and lowering themselves by rope into the grounds.

In order to remain close to Agis until he is ripe for the plucking, Leonida sets out to make Hermocrates fall in love with her, who knows her to be a woman, and Leontine also, who still believes her to be a man.

It is both touching and extremely funny to see Thomas Holtz playing a dry old stick that's broken into leaf again, trying to explain to his young protegee, Ernst Stotner, how he's been wrong all along preaching the superiority of reason over the emotions, and how he himself is in the grip of an overpowering passion.

Naturally, Leonida gains the young man's heart, leaving behind two people betrayed by love. The gentle breeze of tragedy that hovers over this as over any game of love is given expression by Jutta Lampe with a final sigh. The applause lasted for more than ten minutes. In Germany that is a very long time indeed.



Britain's finest soprano, Margaret Price, is at the height of her powers, yet rarely heard here. Tom Sutcliffe finds out why

Why the Price is right

WHAT is it about the brilliant Welsh soprano Margaret Price that makes her such an infrequent visitor? The Price is right at all the great international opera venues — in Munich, Paris, Vienna, New York, San Francisco, Chicago. But she isn't performing at the BBC Proms this summer and won't be heard at Covent Garden all next season. She doesn't even retain an agent here.

True, the season after next she is getting a new production, Norma, staged by the all-too-conventional John Copley. "But there was a great light to that," she says, "and it's celebrating 25 years of me being on the stage — and the first time in 25 years that I'll have had a new production at Covent Garden."

Price, now 44, and thrilling audiences at the Garden as *Fioriligi* in *Così fan Tutte*, is at the peak of her career. She gives about 60 performances a year in all, including opera, recital work and recording. She lives in Munich, which gets the lion's share of her labours. But as she cautiously expands her repertoire to the Verdi heroines, she is also becoming one of the very few sopranos who can hold the stage opposite Domingo and Pavarotti.

She's doing Ballo in Maschera with Pavarotti twice in San Francisco and in Vienna, opening the new Vienna Abteado season.

Price has become more than an impeccable Mozart singer and superb recitalist, whose German lyrics are so good that Fischer-Dieskau can't detect any foreign accent (her anecdote). Her technique has turned out robust, resilient and capable of growth. Yet she has not lost the flexibility, purity of tone

and accuracy of intonation that first took her to international stardom. In other words, she is a phenomenon.

And yet there are these difficulties with Covent Garden, where Solli gave her a lucky break in 1962, when she was 21, casting her as Teresa Berganza's understudy for Cherubino — a part she got to sing because it was June and Berganza had hay fever.

She admits she didn't deserve much help from Covent Garden in the sixties: "I had very great pitch problems. There were lots of things wrong with her singing originally, she never had any lessons, has never in fact had any purely vocal tuition."

She came up to London, to Trinity School of Music, at 15, under the wing of the professor who provided her with a scholarship to pay all her fees. Charles Kennedy Scott, and he insisted she avoid any interference with the way she sang and stuck to a general musical education.

She was a mezzo, she thought, and went on from earning pin money in church choirs to working as a fully professional session singer for John McCarthy and the Ambrosians by the age of 20.

Covent Garden was instrumental in transforming Price's singing, because there she met — as her accompanist at the Covent Garden audition — James Lockhart, from whose advice, musical, professional, she was inseparable until quite recently. Though no longer her accompanist, he still takes her study of new roles.

Maybe she hasn't needed Covent Garden, though she has made her periodic returns there over the last 15 years. But she is thought of some of the management to be "difficult." So how have the difficulties developed?

"I don't suffer fools lightly," she says. "I am not happy when I am there from the very first day of rehearsal, and find the rest of the cast are not. I don't agree with this modern idea that the tenor can come two weeks later, or indeed not come at all, just sail in for the performance and out again. That's not opera for me."

"And if that is how music is going to continue in future with our two friends who are around at the moment, then I will stick to singing recitals. In this sense you could say I am very difficult."

"Now I refuse to do it. If I'm doing an opera with either Mr Pavarotti or Mr Domingo, I find out in advance when they're coming, and I say OK. I'll come at the same time. I'm not going to turn up and sit on my hands, rehearsing with a tenor I'm not going to perform with."

"So I've turned down some new productions, like the new Aida in Munich, when Domingo didn't turn up for any of the rehearsals, until the general. It's difficult. But if I hadn't been difficult and worked hard, I wouldn't be where I am today, because nobody else helped me. It was just slog and hoping it would turn out."

Price can pick and choose and there has been a price to pay. If her physique is stronger now, her breath support more robust, "It's also larger than my dear, she says, "well, you can't have one without the other. I'm afraid. I'm using my tummy and my back a great deal. My back has expanded — it's a real bulldozer's back now."

So there are lots more dramatic roles open to her, and for instance, she did her first Ariadne in Munich last winter. Then there's Leonore in Il Trovatore, though she

confesses to being "in absolute terror" of the cabaret — all those "little black notes."

She'd love to do Traviata. "But with my size nobody in their right mind would ever ask me." And she turns down parts like Turandot. "Not my way of singing. Just one note louder than the other I prefer to make beautiful sounds. It took a lot of persuasion from Carlos Kleiber to make me agree to do Isolde, which I could never sing on stage — it's much too long and heavy for me." Did that mean the recording was artificially edited together?

"In my case not. From the others I am afraid it is a little bit. I sang the whole of the second act on my own. The tenor couldn't help it. He was ill, and so was the Brangäne. But it was hard work, and in the end I hear it. I feel as though my voice is sitting hidden behind the last row of the cellos, and his voice is very present because he did it later. He sneaked it over in a studio in Munich. It gives an odd perspective to the piece. But that's the way they have to do it these days. It costs so much money to do a recording that if an artist does work, they have to record the orchestral music and the artist comes back some other time."

Whatever happens Covent Garden mustn't let the next ten years slip by, the next years probably of Price's career, with the same indifference as the last ten. After Norma, she's booked to do Amelia in Ballo in Maschera opposite Pavarotti.

But it's time that new Covent Garden productions with Price became a regular feature, if possible using imaginative and really interesting producers. She may not be a Dame yet, but she is the best soprano born in these islands this century. It's time she was honoured in her own country.

BRIEFING

THEATRE

JOE Corrie's *In Time of Strife*, set in a life mining community in 1926, comes to the Half Moon Theatre in a production by 7-48 Scotland. David Hayman directs, Geoff Rose designs. The National Theatre's production of *Coriolanus*, directed by Peter Kosminsky, opens in Regent's Park.

Henry V (Barbican: Friday, Saturday; Adrian Noble produces, highlighting the play's relevance to the Falklands war). *Henry V* (Barbican: Friday, Saturday; Adrian Noble produces, highlighting the play's relevance to the Falklands war).

Old Times (Haymarket: Ullmann, Gännon, Paget). Form an erotic threesome in *Pinter piece* on the minefield of memory: last week.

The Glass Menagerie (Greenwich: Fine, funny revival of Tennessee Williams classic, seen from experience).

OPERA

ENGLISH National Opera's last new production of the season is *Akhnaten* (Coliseum Monday, Thursday, Saturday). East Coast minimalist Philip Glass's opera about the monotheistic Pharaoh, which caused much controversy in Stuttgart, New York and Houston. The production, by Opera Factory's David Freeman, is already tested in the US. Paul Daniel conducts, and the cast includes counter-tenor Christopher Robson in the title role, Sally Burgess and Marie Angel. Rock fans tend to trip on this kind of minimalism, but ordinary opera-goers need to remind themselves it's not as boring as it sounds.

THE Royal Opera's new staging of *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Covent Garden: Monday, Thursday, next Saturday) is borrowed from Paris. Jean Louis Martinoty is the producer, but the real attractions are Jeffrey Tate, the extraordinary conductor who is reinforcing the Garden's musical side during the interregnum between Davis and Haitink. Jesse Norman in the title role, the sublime Kathleen Battle as Zerbinetta, and Ann Murray as the Composer. The Bacchus is James King.

Last chance for *Così fan tutte* (Covent Garden tomorrow), with the fabulous Margaret Price on superb form as Fioriligi, and Mexican tenor Francisco Araiza as Ferrando. Maurice Bartlett (Coliseum tonight). The Graham Vick production with Janice Cairns as a memorable Cio-Cio-San and John Mauceri demonstrating what excellent conducting is all about.

Don't miss: *Rigoletto* (Llandudno tonight, Bristol Tuesday, Friday). Pinter's *Three Women* (Llandudno tonight, Bristol Tuesday, Friday). Pinter's *Three Women* (Llandudno tonight, Bristol Tuesday, Friday).

DANCE

THE ROYAL BALLET at Covent Garden will give the triple bill of *La Bayadere*, *Concert Lessons* and *A Month in the Country* tonight, next Wednesday and next Friday. *La Fille mal Gardée* (led by young Karen Paisley and Bruce Sansom) next Tuesday. Marguerite Porter's departure from the company (although she will dance her scheduled performances of *A Month in the Country*) and Wayne Eagling's hairline fracture of his left ankle have caused some changes in casting. Ring 01-240 9815 for latest information.

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet ends its season at the Birmingham Hippodrome with three performances, tonight and twice tomorrow, of the new David Bintley wickedly brilliant as the Duke.

THEATRE

Tom Sutcliffe

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The sound of thunder

"I AM not happy with my music unless a work takes me over completely. It's rather like a love story, complete with coup de foudre." Henri Dutilleul has a very French way of describing how he likes to compose.

This week he visits Suffolk for the first time as composer-in-residence at the Aldeburgh Festival. Though in manner quiet and unassuming even by the introspective standards of composers, the power and character of his music — too little appreciated in this country — will be plain from a series of festival performances, including one of his orchestral work, *Metabolism*, by Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at the Maltings tomorrow.

That was the virtuoso piece he completed in 1954, for George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra when they were world leaders in orchestral playing. Szell gave him the commission for very much the same reasons that he commissioned William Walton at that time: though at heart Dutilleul is a romantic (music as love-story), he —

like Walton — is the most patient of composers, writing slowly and concentrating on a few large-scale pieces, meticulously crafted.

Though in French terms he has always been counted a conservative, he has — unlike Walton — grown less conservative and more adventurous with the years. Where Pierre Boulez, for example, dismissed such early works as Dutilleul's powerful First Symphony of 1950, he began to be more appreciative with *Metabolism*, though Dutilleul wryly notes that he has still not come round to conducting it.

Boulez, as a very young composer in his early twenties, was among those Dutilleul commissioned for incidental music for radio plays. That was the job he did for Radio France for almost 20 years from the end of the second world war onwards, his duties leaving him only three hours a day for composing.

What was worse, his involvement with the music he was commissioning from such composers as Milhaud, Auric, Gilbert Amy and Maurice Jarre tended to sap his own creative urge. He also found that giving composition classes — which he did at the Ecole Normale on Alfred Corlès's invitation — undermined his own composing.

Nonetheless, in his years as a radio executive he completed a large-scale piano sonata for his wife, Genevieve Joy, as well as his first two symphonies. He also wrote for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Since then his major works have included a cello concerto for Rostropovich, "Toujours un monde lointain" (1970), an orchestral piece inspired by Van Gogh, *Timbres, Espaces, Mouvement* (1977), and a string quartet "Ainsi la nuit" (1976).

Naturally as a slow worker Dutilleul envies composers as prolific as Milhaud or Hindemith, but recognises that it is not just a matter of opportunity but just as much of temperament. He is "now hard at work" completing a violin concerto for Isaac Stern, commissioned by French Radio for a first performance next November with Lorin Maazel.

In Aldeburgh he is looking forward not only to the scheduled events involving his music, lectures as well as

Henri Dutilleul, composer-in-residence at Aldeburgh, talks to Edward Greenfield

performances, but to meeting young composers. In the spring he acted as chairman of the jury for the Benjamin Britten composing prize, and was much impressed with the standard of entries.

Even so he finds it disruptive of his work pattern to be away from home for long. For all the slowness of his composing he makes it a rule to be at his desk every day, believing in regular hours for putting notes on manuscript paper, rather as Richard Strauss or Walton did. And some days he is visited by a coup de foudre.

NV

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Now, could we please try consultation?

Mr Norman Fowler's plan to phase out the State earnings related pension scheme (Serps), which would have given 11 million people a guaranteed higher retirement in the next century, looks shabbier by the day. Serps is one of the precious few areas of policy rising above the battleground of party politics. It was hewn in the seventies by Barbara Castle out of the bones of the Conservative Boyd-Carpenter scheme and has since carried all-party support as befits something which reaches out into the next century. And the Social Services Secretary himself hailed its bi-partisan merits only 18 months ago.

So what happened? Mr Fowler not only did not consult the Opposition parties, but failed to consult opinion in his own party. Yesterday, it emerged (in David Hencke's report in the *Guardian*) that the abolition plans were not even discussed, let alone endorsed, by the expert team appointed by Mr Fowler to advise him. Indeed, far from recommending abolition of Serps, Mr Stewart Lyon, general manager of finance at Legal and General (and past president of the Institute of Actuaries) proposed that it should be retained and modified.

The crux of the matter is this. Even if, on present population and economic trends, Serps will be "unaffordable" in the next century (a proposition which is hotly disputed by many experts) why then not trim it down with all-party agreement, to something which is affordable, rather than decree its total demise? Especially since it is being replaced with a compulsory private sector equivalent which will cost at least as much for the comparable benefit. The concept of Serps, while admirable, was not written in stone. It aims to give about half of the working population (mainly those who have not "contracted out" from approved occupational schemes) an inflation proof pension to top up their flat rate State pension. It is intended to eliminate the trend towards two nations in old age — the fat cats with occupational pensions, and the majority with just the State pension, many of whom fall below the supplementary ben-

efit level. It is the poor who have most to lose from the Government's alternative. Serps is more advanced — and therefore more expensive — than most private schemes because it is inflation proofed and based on the best of 20 years' earnings, thus benefiting those with interrupted careers like women, the unemployed and the disabled. Because it is earnings related, the likes of the chairman of ICI would maybe do too well (that could be changed) but very low earners would be favourably treated.

It is true that it is all jam tomorrow. Existing pensions are unaffected. So there may be scope for shifting some of the cost of Serps onto raising existing pensions. But since the scheme is administered by the State you can change your job without loss of pensions potential, thereby achieving the "portability" and job flexibility which the Government approves of.

Or rather, it would if it were a private sector scheme. And that's the problem. There is a deep suspicion that what is wrong with Serps is not the extrapolated cost. Mr David Pischaud of the London School of Economics, for instance, (in *New Society* this week) says that "there is no doubt at all that we could afford Serps." What is wrong is that it was conceived the wrong side of the sheets, in the public domain. By shifting all the contributions to private pension funds (which, incidentally, don't seem all that keen to get them) the Government will lay the foundations for a truly massive increase in the power and money of the pension funds at a time when it is supposed to be redressing the balance in favour of the individual investor.

Above all, it is highly unlikely that the Government's dogmatically conceived, hastily drafted alternative will survive a change of administration. Having failed to sound out even its own supporters on a fundamental change of this magnitude, and by allowing only a few months for consultation in its so called green paper, the Government may have engineered for itself a political booby trap much bigger than the GLC and the metropolitan counties. If that happens Mrs Thatcher and Mr Fowler will have no one to blame but themselves.

The big domino doesn't agree

The Mexican President's visit to Britain has coincided, by chance, with a string of United States congressional votes passing

aid to the Nicaraguan contras. While Mr Miguel de la Madrid is in Europe primarily to attract more trade and investment to his country, his journey has a wider political dimension. Washington's voice on the issue of Central America inevitably tends to dominate the international scene, but it is vital that the voice of other American nations should also be heard by Europeans.

The Reagan Administration claims that the Sandinista government in Nicaragua is a threat to the United States in particular and the region in general, and sadly has now persuaded a majority in Congress to take a similar view. Mexico is considerably nearer to Nicaragua. It is the largest and most important "domino" which would fall if Mr Reagan's nightmares about the alleged Sandinista export of revolution were ever to come to pass. Yet in spite of this Mexico does not share the United States' position. It is far more relaxed about the Sandinistas and believes that the danger of United States intervention in the region is the prime trigger for upheaval.

The Mexican government does not come to this view because it is itself revolutionary, as any of those who met President de la Madrid this week will know. No one could be more moderate, cautious, and soberly restrained than he. Although his party is known as the Institutional Revolutionary Party, it is only the first of those two adjectives which has any operational validity in Mexico. Mexico's political system has become, if anything, too stable, since the monopoly of power at the top has tended to breed corruption, and an unwillingness to open up to new ideas. Mr de la Madrid has done a useful job in trying to move away from the discredited image of his predecessor, but the party should be more willing to ensure that next month's elections for Congress and seven state governments are unrigged.

Yet the fact that so essentially conservative a regime should disagree with Mr Reagan's view of the world is significant. Mexicans understand better than their ideologically-committed neighbour to the North that the real issue in Central and South America, has nothing to do with Managua, Havana, or Moscow, but comes from longstanding economic and social injustices, which have now been aggravated by the debt crisis. There is no menacing enemy without: there is only a cancerous enemy within.

Throughout his visit here the Mexican president has been stressing the ironic fact

that Latin America has become a net exporter of capital to the rest of the world, as a result of its heavy debt repayments. This new twist in the debt story means that the continent's people are facing unprecedented austerity with the risk of rising social tensions, just as the new democracies of the Southern Cone try to consolidate themselves.

By any realistic standard, this poses a much more significant security threat, if one wishes to look at the continent only from an Olympian level, than anything the Sandinistas are likely to do. As a human tragedy it is a disaster, as the shanty-towns of Mexico City, Lima, and San Paulo make clear to any visitor. The answer to the crisis lies largely with the continent's creditors in London, Paris and New York. It is good that the Mexican government has been here to reinforce the message. The pity is that Mr Reagan, who has met him on several occasions, has not yet even begun to understand it.

At the back of the greenhouse

MPs, especially those who quote Edmund Burke's classic statement that Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors from different and hostile interests but a deliberative assembly of one nation, like to think of themselves as absolute independents. The reality, then as now, is very different. Two centuries ago, the Duke of Newcastle found little problem in persuading MPs to barter their allegiance. Even today, though corruption may hold less direct sway, MPs continue to represent conflicting interests of many kinds, and not merely competing political parties. Some are retained by banks and multinationals. Others have a variety of formal and informal ties and connections with pressure groups and lobbying organisations. None of these links is necessarily sinister or objectionable, providing that the relationship is openly acknowledged on the appropriate occasions and that it is a matter of public record. Providing that a constituent or a TV viewer or a journalist is aware of the tie-up, it is possible to decide why an MP is pushing a particular line. And that is why, of course, Parliament now has its register of members' interests, boycotted only by the independent incumbent, Mr Enoch Powell, and more capriciously, by

Labour's Mr Brian Sedgemore, the would-be novelist.

The register may disturb Mr Powell's platonic view of parliamentary independence, but there is no doubt that it was a necessary reform if the public was to have confidence in what MPs were saying. Now, however, the Select Committee of Members' Interests has woken up to the need for further policing of the backstairs influences on the political process. In its report, published yesterday, the select committee has turned its attention to the other occupants of the Westminster greenhouse, the professional lobbyists, parliamentary journalists and MPs' assistants, as well as examining the role of the proliferating all-party groups and their advisers. The need for such an inquiry has become increasingly obvious. Each of these coteries has grown in size over the last decade. The direct influence of the lobbyists and research assistants has, by common consent, become greater. As a result of such changes, the realities of parliamentary life have altered and there is enhanced scope for unscrutinised (and possibly improper) political pressure to be brought to bear on MPs.

Yet, as in the past, MPs have fumbled the main issue and have concentrated their proposals on secondary, albeit important, questions. The select committee recommends that parliamentary lobby and press gallery journalists should, like MPs, be compelled to register their relevant paid interests. This is desirable, since there is some indication that a handful of lobby reporters do not restrict themselves to a journalistic role. Similarly, it is right that MPs' secretaries and assistants should have to make a declaration of their other paid interests. As the "research assistant" of Sir Anthony Grant MP told the committee, his research relationship with the MP is "essentially bogus." But the committee has rejected the setting-up of a register of lobbyists and their links, a proposal which was made in evidence by the public relations industry itself. This is a serious failure. Without such a register, MPs of all parties will continue to make speeches and pursue campaigns without full and proper public knowledge of their outside ties. The public has a right to know how much MPs are being paid, by whom and for what. These links with lobbyists have increased, are increasing and ignorance about them ought to be diminished.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No sooner are new prisons built than the courts have filled them to the brim

Sir,—The reaction of Jack Semmens to his first time incarceration as a remand prisoner in Wormwood Scrubs (Letters, June 11), is understandable enough. Yet the squalor of which he complains is not, as he imagines, solely the lot of unconvicted prisoners. There are plenty actually serving sentences who are also locked behind their cell doors for close on 23 hours a day.

Nor is the experience anything new: in 1974, during part of a four year sentence, I had over six months of sharing a 12ft by 6ft cell with two others and never being unlocked for more than the statutory exercise and brief periods for "slopping out" and collecting meals. The majority of prisoners during at least the last 15 years can speak of similar experiences.

Yet the answer is emphatically not to build still more prisons. Between 1970 and 1982 something like 6,000 new closed places were provided but the degree of overcrowding has remained the same year after year with only the overall prison population going up as new spaces become available.

Nowhere is the danger more clearly shown than in the case of the new remand prison due to be started soon at Woolwich. The design of this was sold to the GLC and to the Borough of Greenwich by a Home Office declaration that it would replace the old Pentonville and Brixton gaols. Once the GLC had naively accepted these assurances and acknowledged the need for a new London prison, the Home Office changed its tune and stated that the new prison would not be able to cope with all the prisoners who would be phased out, but that this would require a second new London prison!

The real trouble of course is not that we have too few prisons but too many prisoners, proportionately far in excess of all other European countries except West Germany which has a similarly repressive record to our own. Mr Semmens's second point, concerning staff shortages, also ignores any historical context. In fact the ratio of staff to prisoners has increased consistently for many years. For example, in 1971 there were 3.58 prisoners to each uniformed prison officer. By 1984 this has been cut to 2.54 prisoners per officer, despite the fact that there are nowadays also many more non-uniformed specialist staff working alongside the prison officers.

Even the 1979 inquiry by the May Committee into the prison system acknowledged prison officers' appetites for overtime and referred to some of them as "overtime bandits." Our own experience is that the need for consistent heavy overtime is artificially created by prison officers themselves.—Yours sincerely, Geoff Goggan, Prop. The National Prisoners' Movement, London WC1.



Sir,—I was surprised to see criticism of the Government's commitment to the Probation Service and to non-custodial sentences in your correspondence columns (June 12). The Government has proved its commitment to both of these in a number of very telling ways. We have introduced community service into all parts of England and Wales, and it has been so successful that we have recently made it available for use with 16-year old offenders in all probation areas.

The Criminal Justice Act 1982 encouraged the use of probation for more serious offenders. It conferred on the courts specific powers to enable them to require offenders placed on probation to attend day centres or participate in specific activities designed to minimise the risk of their re-offending. In England and Wales the courts are now using 39 day centres provided by the Probation Service, many of which have been established since the Criminal Justice Act came into operation.

A year ago the Home Office issued its national statement of objectives and priorities for the Probation Service which includes, as a first objective and top priority, work aimed at getting more serious offenders under its supervision. The Home Secretary, through his Probation Inspectorate, is encouraging all area probation services to adopt this approach in the use of their resources.

These resources have been increasing steadily since the Government came to power. Central and local government expenditure on the Probation Service in England and Wales has risen from £86 million in 1979-80 to £175 million in 1984-85. This reflects real growth of 34 per cent; since June 1979 the service has increased in size from 4,800 probation officers (excluding those working in prisons), and 3,600 auxiliaries and other staff, to the present totals of over 5,600 probation officers and over 5,000 auxiliary and other staff.

This rising provision has taken account of the increase in the case-load of the service and, on the basis of expert assessment of the projected increase, we have again made provision for further growth in the current financial year. At a time when we are determined to cut public expenditure, the Government has shown by this consistent provision for growth the measure of

its support for the Probation Service.—Yours faithfully, David Mellor, MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State), Home Office, London SW1.

Sir,—In her attack on Aldington Detention Centre (*Guardian*, April 28) Alleen Baillanys confirms that a police investigation is taking place into allegations of brutality. The article goes on to register the views of unnamed probation officers who "have heard" or "have heard" of similar allegations. In the main the article is critical of the "short, sharp shock" regimes. The Prison Officers' Association too is critical of the regimes and has registered those views to the Home Secretary. What is disgraceful is that prison officers at Aldington are being used as a means to provide a platform for further criticism of the "short, sharp shock" policy of the Government.

Quite clearly, if probation officers have information which needs examination, it is their duty to place it before the police. The POA refuses to participate in internal inquiries where allegations of a criminal nature have been made as we believe that the police should investigate such allegations. We refused to participate in an internal investigation into the present allegations at Aldington.

Having taken such a stance, it is then a matter for the police to determine what action is appropriate. If any probation officer has information which would assist the police in their inquiries, now is the proper time for them to furnish such information. We understand that such a request has been made on several occasions and no information has been forthcoming. David Evans, Prison Officers' Association, London N9.

Miscellany in short

Sir,—When a black neighbour, British by birth, complained that he was almost invariably stopped and searched, and on one occasion stripped, by Customs officials at Heathrow airport, I attributed his experiences to the misfortune of looking suspicious as he walked through the "green" channel.

Returning from the Continent this week, however, I was astonished to see that without exception the passengers having their luggage examined were black or Asian.

Shielding us from the truth about state pensions

Sir,—Your leader (June 10) makes it clear that the interim and unpublished report of the Inquiry into Provision for Retirement had never even been discussed, let alone concluded, that the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps) should be abolished. Mr Stewart Lyon, as a member of the inquiry team, has said that the proposal in the Green Paper to phase out Serps had never even been hinted at by ministers or other members of the committee.

On Question Time (BBC-1, June 6) the Secretary of State was challenged by David Blunkett to say when the Government found out that there would be a big increase in the number of pensioners in the next century and consequently higher costs, especially since both Norman Fowler and the Prime Minister were firmly on the record as saying in 1983 that there were no plans to change Serps. The Secretary of State replied: "You asked to mention members of the committee and I'll tell you. We found it out in the review."

According to Mr Lyons,

Aspersions on a free press

Sir,—James Curran implies (The Media Page, June 10) that the Pearson group interferes with the free flow of information in the Westminster Press papers which it owns, and has established no-go areas for reporting. This amounts to a damaging aspersion on my integrity as editorial director of the group and on the professional integrity of our 46 editors and about 1,000 journalists and other members of the Pearson board.

I cannot of course speak for all of them, but I absolutely refute Mr Curran's assertion. In my nearly 11 years in the job no one from Pearson has ever pressed the exclusion of anything from any of our papers, and I am sure that editors are not inhibited in this way.

Newspapersmen ought not to be too sensitive to attack, but Mr Curran is head of the department of communications at Goldsmiths College, and some of your readers may therefore be led to assume that his assertion is based on some valid research. I have known Mr Curran for 35 years, but he has never put his assertions about news areas to me. A quick check suggests that he

this is not the case. If the review team made no recommendation for the abolition of Serps obviously the increasing costs must have been discovered after the review. Indeed, the Sunday Times report of June 9 would have us believe that it came as an overnight revelation at the Wilton Park session.

In fact, as Norman Fowler and the rest of us know full well, the projections of costs of pensions and contribution rates up to the year 2025/26 had been published by the Government actuaries in July 1982. It showed that on any reasonable set of assumptions, then, Serps was affordable. These figures were available before either Mr Fowler or the Prime Minister made their respective pledges to maintain Serps.

Even the Government actuaries' publication of June 1984 which "summarises the financial estimates and associated information used by the inquiry" (now in annex B of paper 2 in Vol. 1 of the Green Paper) gives projections up to 2025/26 for costs and contribution rates.

The Green Paper, while

omitting the key projections of contribution rates, somehow moves us on to costs in the year 2030 — the most extreme time for showing the ratio of pensioners to non-pensioners due to the baby boom of the 1960s — but does not move further to when the ratio improves.

There are too many unanswered questions. Indeed, where answers are given they only too often seem to fall into the parliamentary category of "terminological inexactitudes." If the report of the housing benefit review team can be published, why cannot the report of the inquiry into Provision for Retirement be similarly published? Mr Fowler should do so at once and tell the people of the country exactly what was the judgment of his team of experts, under his own personal chairman ship, and what they actually did conclude. — Yours sincerely, Judy McKnight,

on behalf of Action for Benefits, 124/130 Southpark Street, London SE1.

The rules of resettling black communities

Sir,—Mrs Glenys Kinnock (Letters, June 6) raises the question of a settlement of the Mathopostad Community. I am pleased to have the opportunity to reiterate quite unambiguously that the South African government is opposed to the forced removals of black communities.

If Mrs Kinnock had any conception of the barrenness of certain parts of Africa and the demographic distribution of its inhabitants, which is the major cause of appalling deprivation, she would appreciate that in many cases resettlement programmes are in the best interests of the people concerned. So, too, in South Africa we are faced with many of the problems of the Third World, and we endeavour in good faith to provide for an improvement in the living standards of all.

Indeed statistical evidence demonstrates quite convincingly the success that has been achieved in providing the highest living standard for all the inhabitants of South Africa in comparison to the rest of Africa.

Where it is envisaged by government that resettlement is in the interests of a

community, much thought and care is given to the planning of a settlement project. Bearing in mind that black communities traditionally express their views through consensus, the policy is that, after representatives have been shown the new area and the compensatory land, the process of settlement takes place on a voluntary basis, and in consultation with the community.

We are determined to comply with a number of important standards, and adequate compensation is always a fundamental feature. There must be ample supplies of drinking water, suitable facilities, adequate schools and clinics, and government-subsidised public transport facilities.

The compensatory land allotted to land-owners, tribes, and communities must be of equal or greater agricultural or pastoral value than that to be vacated, and owners are compensated in cash for improvements left behind, according to independent valuation.

Notwithstanding the practice of consulting with the leaders of the black communities, in many cases vocal radical elements, often in defiance of the leadership of black communities, have for their own ends sought to portray resettlement projects in an unfavourable light.

With a view to broader consultation and in response to representations from various quarters, the South African government has decided to review all resettlement projects and, pending this review, all have been suspended except in cases where resettlement takes place with the approval and support of the people concerned. As far as the Mathopostad Community is concerned, Mrs Kinnock and your readers may rest assured that the community will not be "coerced" and enticed (d) to agree to move to a resettlement camp. As in the case of all other resettlement projects, that of Mathopostad will not be taken without close consultation and support of the community. In the event of resettlement, all the above procedures, indeed, would be scrupulously observed.—Yours sincerely, (Dr) G. van N. Viljoen, (Minister of Cooperation, Development and Education), South African Embassy, London WC2.

that unexpectedly large number of people will be returning in the years 2010 to 2030. Since 2030 is only 45 years away — and assuming no change in the retirement age — the men who will be retiring then are now 20 years of age, and the women are 15.

This means they were all alive when Serps was introduced — and had been for some years. So where have Norman Fowler's extra pensioners come from? Has he a secret cloning laboratory somewhere?

The truth is that it is not the forecast number of pensioners which was at fault in the early seventies. It is the Government's economic policies which are defective. By declaring that we will be unable to afford Serps, the Government is tacitly acknowledging that its policies have failed to produce a sound economy; are failing to reduce the level of unemployment; and will continue to fail for the next 45 years if we do not do them enough to re-select them.—Yours Keith Williams, 2 Jarman Avenue, Wrexham, Clwyd.

A COUNTRY DIARY

NORTHUMBERLAND: As we stood in the tiny dungeon in the medieval pele tower at Preston, the imagination faltered as the thought of being incarcerated in such a cramped space with only a three-inch slit of light set in the thick wall. Major Baker-Cresswell, the square, told me that during the years of riving and raiding in the border counties, every fortified home had a prison for miscreants. I followed him up the spiral stairs of his

marvellous 14th century pele tower and, with pride, he showed me the perfect little rooms that he has furnished exactly as they would have been 400 years ago. We paused to admire the mechanism of the beautiful striking clock, a replica of the one designed for Big Ben. On the parapet of the tower, we sat in the sun enjoying the vista of rolling woodland, fell and pasture, and he pointed out the "marches" of his estate and the hazy blue line of the sea to the east. He told me that the

word pele stems from the Latin word, *pelum*, meaning a fortress. Some of the ballads about the characters who lived and fought on the borders have been framed and mounted in the tower and my friend recited one of his favourites, a sad ditty which he felt summed up the spirit of some of his persecuted but courageous forebears: "Fair Lilland lie under this stone, little was her stature but great was her fame; Upon the English looms she laid many thumps and when they cutted off

her legs, she fought upon her stumps." Later, we went for a walk through the rhododendrons and azaleas which surround the tower and the manor house. The path was edged with drifts of bluebell. Peles are normally found on high ground, so that the inhabitants could keep a sharp eye over the surrounding countryside. Riving was generally done by new moon, and so some border families have a crescent on their coat of arms.

VERONICA HEATH

Knowing what ought to be done is not enough. Someone must see that it is done. MALCOLM PITHERS reports on the inquiry

The bleak lesson of the Bradford disaster

THE inquiry into the Bradford City fire disaster ended yesterday in the knowledge that changes in sports ground safety will be recommended, if not introduced immediately.

The hearing will have a devastating effect on places of entertainment and on how authorities with responsibility for all areas of safety react to such an emergency.

What the inquiry will not do is ease the pain and anger felt by some of the relatives of those who died or those who are still seriously injured. For the Bradford disaster should never have been allowed to happen.

The events which led inexorably to the catastrophe at Valley Parade on Saturday, May 11, were an avoidable set of circumstances, long primed by human failing, a lack of commonsense and a multitude of authorities each oblivious to what each other was doing or was obliged to do.

It was, for once, a disaster which had been prophesied by experts — and ignored by everyone in a position to prevent the tragedy.

The interim report, which Mr Justice Popplewell has already begun and will deliver to the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, may well be far more critical of individuals and authorities than the questioning of witnesses permitted in the inquiry. But the impression left on those who listened to the 250,000 or so words spoken at the hearing, was of an exercise in passing the proverbial buck with as much speed as possible.

Such phrases as "not my responsibility," "not my concern," "out of my jurisdiction," and "not within the scope of my authority," were commonplace. Not a single witness out of the 77 who gave evidence ever spoke about his moral responsibility.

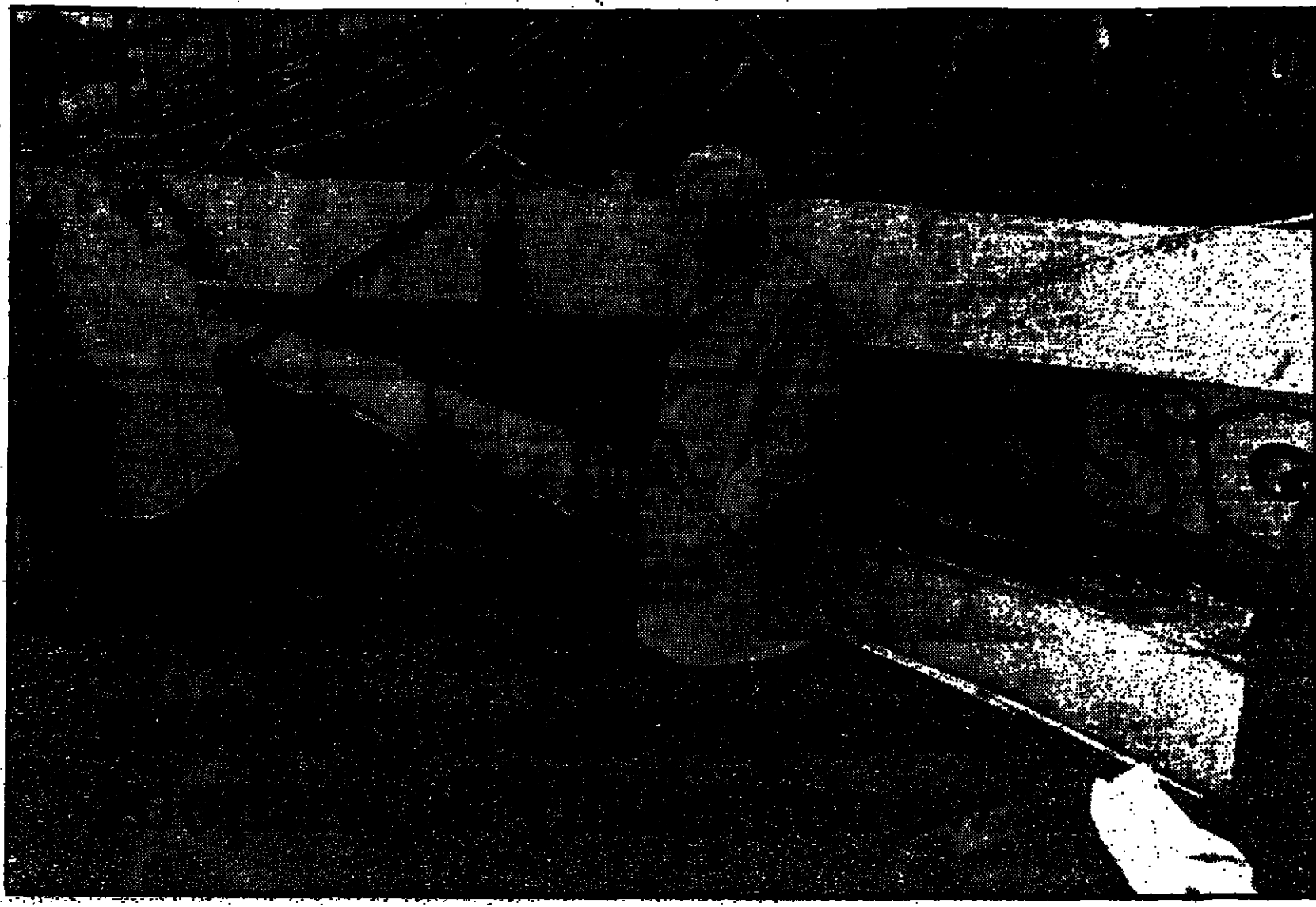
The truth is that many people were aware for a long time that the main seating area at the football club was a fire hazard. This was because rubbish had been collected under the seat voids, and that the future would trigger a fire.

This fact was known at differing times to the old and new management of the club, to the Health and Safety Executive, to West Yorkshire county council, and perhaps, crucially, to the fire brigade. Nobody did anything to remove that risk.

Mr Stafford Heginbotham, the club chairman, has had to bear a great deal of criticism over the tragedy, some justified and some grossly inaccurate. This was because of the furor over the various letters asked for and sent to the club concerning safety matters, and the stand in particular.

He defended the club's position at the inquiry by saying that he did not think his reaction would have been any different even with hindsight. He pointed out that the club had planned to complete the work on the stand he had started in 1967. He wanted to concrete the stand then, and physically helped rebuild the first six rows. He has always maintained privately that what was uppermost in his mind — once there was any kind of money available — was the re-concreting and re-seating of the entire stand. He accepted, of course, that the litter should have been removed.

That the club was lax in not clearing the rubbish is patently obvious. It was a major contributory factor to the blaze — in fact, the fire probably would not have taken place at all had it not been there. After being told first in September 1980, by the Health and Safety Execu-



Mr Justice Popplewell amid the wreckage of the Bradford stand. Picture by Don McPhee

tive and then again in July 1984 — a span which takes in the old and new management — that the litter was a fire hazard, it should have been removed.

But the club was being strangled by circumstances and stretched financially. Was it then more important to cure the drainage problems on the ground and tackle the stand roof, or remove a few bags of rubbish?

No one should assume that Mr Heginbotham is the villain of the piece. He has done all he can to revive the fortunes of the club and was hoping for an influx of funds to cure most, if not

all, the safety problems. It is a cruel distortion to single him or the club for exclusive blame.

What is unforgivable is that the experts, the Health and Safety Executive, West Yorkshire county council and the fire brigade, were all made aware of the fire hazard, but did not see that it was eliminated.

Mr Sydney Levine, representing the victims' relatives, put it succinctly when he said that he had listened to the evidence of the Health and Safety Executive with "mounting disbelief."

One of the executive's principal inspectors, and others, visited the ground in

September 1980. This visit produced a four-page document which states that there was little compliance at the club with the voluntary Green Code — the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds.

The HSE wrote to the club on September 10, 1980, pointing out various areas for improvement, by no means highlighting the litter problem, but clearly referring to it. The inspector recommended that the seat voids be "completely blocked off" because he had read the code in depth before visiting the club and had noticed a direct reference to fire risks in such stands.

That information was filed away internally by the executive for its own purposes and not passed on to the fire authority, because the executive considered it "inconceivable" that the fire service would not be aware of the problem. The HSE has not had local jurisdiction for fire matters since 1977.

West Yorkshire county council became involved in July last year, when one of its engineers was asked to visit the stadium to help with its efforts to obtain a grant from the Football Trust towards the cost of recovering the main stand roof. His report mentioned that the timber construction of the stand was a fire hazard and in particular that there was a build-up of combustible materials in voids beneath the seats. "A carelessly discarded cigarette could give rise to a fire risk," he said.

The fire brigade also knew of the fire hazard under the seat voids because of the county council's involvement, but did not make a single visit to the ground on its own initiative. Even when it was known that a fire would attend the May 11 match, it was quite correctly pointed out that the fire service had no "statutory duty" to check the ground.

Mr Justice Popplewell will almost certainly recommend far better liaison between such authorities as the HSE, the fire brigades, local authorities and the police, possibly with even some form of national overseeing body to spot potential hazards.

Club safety at every level will have to be vastly improved, with proper training given to the police for mass evacuation. All exit doors will have to remain in place near any locked doors, and fire equipment will need to be effective.

The public, too, will have to learn good housekeeping: litter, matches, cigarettes and pipe tobacco anywhere it is not wanted.

But to avoid such catastrophes in future, there must be strict enforcement of the green code, together with a collective move by all the agencies involved to oversee the potential trouble spots. That way something constructive will have emerged from the disaster and the quarter of a million words spoken at the inquiry will not have been wasted.

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DIARY

TV-AM'S Director of Programmes, Mr Mike Hollingsworth, has finally resigned, leaving the IBA wondering what to do next over the troublesome breakfast station.

Senior IBA officials have been seeing dining with Mr Hollingsworth recently, as part of their keen, if bland, interest in the news content promised in the original TV-am franchise application.

The station's MD, Mr Bruce Gyngell, is now to take over Mr H's old job, while remaining MD. This is usually frowned on by the IBA, but a special exception has been made in this case. The IBA said this week that the station's editorial content was "adequate."

Mr H is said by TV-am staff to have resigned after disagreeing with Mr Gyngell about what could plausibly be presented to an IBA meeting about future news coverage. "The shareholders want to make quick money now," says the source, "and news is an incredibly expensive commodity. They realise they may well lose the franchise in six years time, and so they have got six years to get their money back."

THE wittier inmates of County Hall have taken to humming the old Tommy Wymette number "Stand By Your Side" whenever leading past Red Ken in the corridors. Tee hee.

TRUE to the highest standards of their calling, the "learned" friends kept an open mind and weighed the evidence before voting in Tuesday's debate on opening up the higher courts for non-barristers to practise in. Of the 28 barristers who voted, a mere 27 came down against the proposal. Of 51 Labour MPs only one voted against — Mr Donald Anderson. Mr Anderson is a barrister.

AFTER the ball, the reckoning. Jesus College, Cambridge, representatives are to meet with Cambridge city council officials to explain the dip omitted by Tuesday night's May Ball, organised by Prince Edward. The council's environmental health inspectors recorded over 100 Dba at its height, and were deluged with complaints from local residents. Garry Glitter seems to have been the problem. The college may face prosecution if it can't promise to do better next year.

DAVID LEE, TUC deputy supreme, idly donning during a protracted meeting the anagrammises Nigel Lawson rather neatly: We All Sign On.

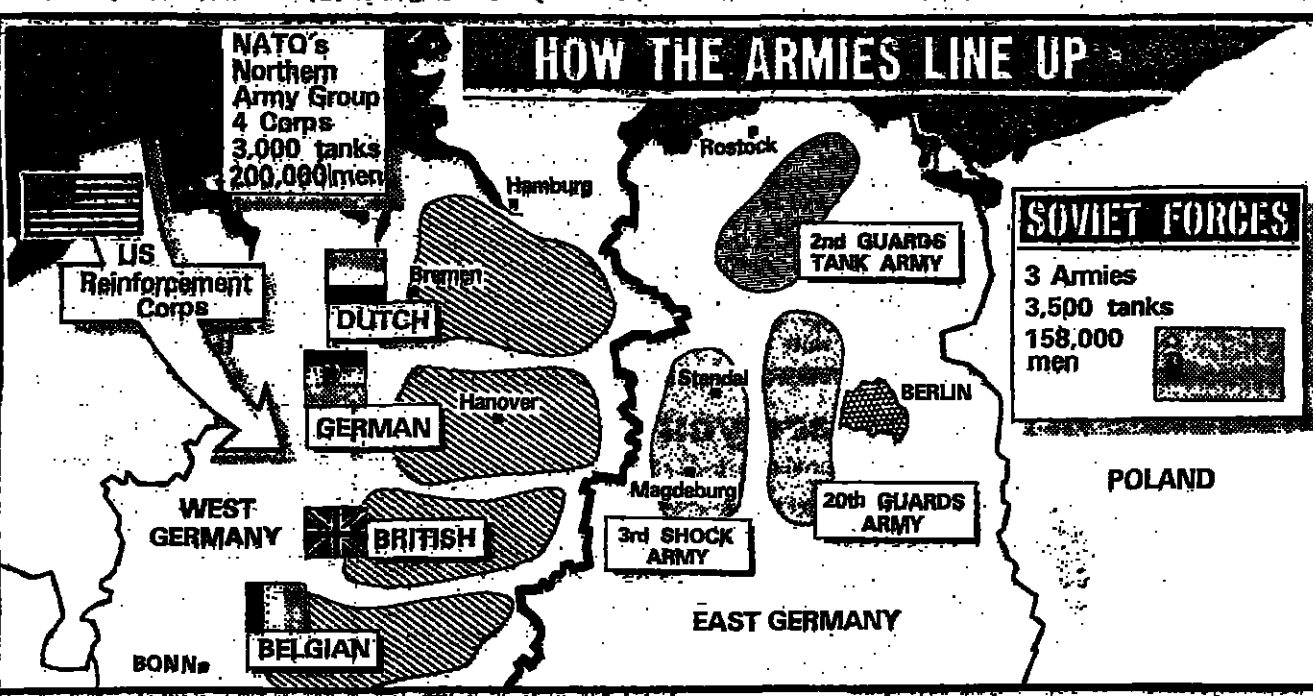
ONE HAS to hand it to Mr John Browne, Tory MP for Winchester. He sniggered — admit it; you did — when learning of his invitation to TV studios to interview him about his opinion of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. (He met the Soviet leader during his London visit). We tittered that his views have been far only been aired in the Hampshire Chronicle. We chuckled when Mr Browne made it on to the Today programme talking about Mr G. But, blow me, we were sent a picture of Mr B (Winchester Gazette, June 6) shaking hands with President Reagan in the White House.

The paper informs us that "Mr Browne was at the White House with Gorbachev and his probable influence on East-West relations." We shouldn't have laughed. It was serious.

A COPY of Tribune arrives, with every reference to picture of article by iconoclast by its editor, Mr Nigel Williamson, who is sensibly to claims that he is not a communist-minded as a good Tribune editor should be. Mr W. concedes there are no articles by women in the arts pages. These, he explains, are edited by a woman.

THE SEARCH for the Conqueror logbook continues, with every reference to picture of article by iconoclast by its editor, Mr Nigel Williamson, who is sensibly to claims that he is not a communist-minded as a good Tribune editor should be. Mr W. concedes there are no articles by women in the arts pages. These, he explains, are edited by a woman.

Alan Rusbridger



At last, a strategy for Europe that might work, writes DAVID FAIRHALL

Nato's fit of fighting talk

FOR SEVERAL years now Nato commanders have been trying to concoct their complex military doctrine, with the simple commonsense realisation that our European defence is far too dependent on the threat of early nuclear retaliation.

The Supreme Commander, General Bernard Rogers, was the first to drag the problem into the open and suggest what might be done about it in terms of improved non-nuclear defence. His successor, General Sir Nigel Bagnall, has taken the concept a stage further, describing this week as a "massive advance" in efficiency, making the prospect of non-nuclear deterrence much more realistic. The biggest change in tactical doctrine since the West Germans first joined the Northern Army Group in 1957 to line up along their border with the British, Dutch and Belgian troops.

Now it is the turn of the European generals. They reacted differently, partly because of their different military backgrounds and partly in the knowledge that their governments could not necessarily afford all that American hardware.

Their response emerged this week in a new "concept of operations" — that is, a more efficient way of fighting in West Germany should it be necessary — developed by the British commander of Nato's Northern Army Group, General Sir Nigel Bagnall, with the backing of his commander-in-chief in the central front, the German chief of staff, General Hans-Henning von Sander.

In simple terms, the new concept would enable the four-nation Northern Army Group to fight a fully integrated force with its own reserves, instead of as four independent national corps, each defending one section of a 200 kilometre front. It would be a war of

manoeuvre, not static attrition.

It may sound obvious enough. But in this respect, as in many others, Nato's historical hang-ups have hitherto prevented the obvious military solution, being adopted. General Bagnall's concept, described by the Bagnall concept this week as a "massive advance" in efficiency, making the prospect of non-nuclear deterrence much more realistic. The biggest change in tactical doctrine since the West Germans first joined the Northern Army Group in 1957 to line up along their border with the British, Dutch and Belgian troops.

What Bagnall has done is to take an idea that any German general schooled in the second world war would applaud — the need to maintain powerful reserves with which to counter attack wherever your enemy breaks through the defensive line — and apply it to the rigid, somewhat artificial structure Nato's history has evolved.

At present, the four national corps line the border from north to south, each defending a narrow sector without much reference to their neighbours, on the increasingly unrealistic understanding that if they were overrun they could call for nuclear weapons to prevent breakthrough turning into defeat. Each corps, and each division within the corps, does of course have its own reserves, but the army group commander has hitherto been able to call on only a division-sized force to plug gaps right across the 200 kilometre front.

From now on, Bagnall (or rather his successor, since he is just about to relinquish

the Nato command to become chief of the General Staff in London) will have first call on a multi-national reserve force of three times that size, heavily equipped with tanks, which should be well able to strike back at any Soviet force which managed to break through the forward defence lines. If necessary it could also counter attack into East Germany, but this aspect of the new concept is being played down for fear it should give the impression that Nato has begun to abandon its defensive strategy.

It's a case of pragmatic British common sense making room for German military flair. But, paradoxically, it has been the German concern to maintain Nato's existing concept of "forward defence" — which means standing right on the inner German border to defend the Federal Republic, not falling back to the Rhine until reinforcements arrive for the counter attack — that has proved one of the main obstacles to the British commander's two-year campaign to get a more flexible doctrine formally accepted. A good deal of political in-fighting was involved before approval came through from the various defence ministries — and, in Britain's case, from the Prime Minister herself.

Involving Mrs Thatcher could turn out to be a shrewd move as far as the British Army is concerned, because one of the domestic effects of transforming the Northern Army Group into a truly integrated formation, with reserves deployed across the national corps boundaries, is that it will be even more difficult to extricate Rhine Army from Germany if a defence budget

crisis makes that seem desirable. It leaves the Royal Navy's North Atlantic forces that much more vulnerable to future cuts.

Some of Nato's military politicians are also hoping that integration will put an end to the idea of scaling down Rhine Army and pulling it back into a reserve role. This is something the soldiers fear, not just on the British Army's behalf. If the British corps pulled back, they argue, the Dutch and the Belgians would get similar ideas, and if they pulled back they might as well go home.

Germany military endorsement of Bagnall's proposals could be read recently in a heavily-coded article on forward defence written by General von Sander in the magazine, "Nato's Sixteen Nations." He warned against an over-literal interpretation of the Nato doctrine. In reality, he argued, forward defence required a high degree of mobility, a certain depth of operations, and the ability to launch counter attacks.

The German chief of staff also hinted at some of the equipment implications of a more mobile, integrated concept of operations. Manoeuvrability means fewer static minefields of which the British corps is notoriously fond. So perhaps we should buy some mine scattering equipment from the Germans.

In short, a lot of work now has to be done to put flesh on the new concept, leading to a full army group command post exercise in a few years time. In the meantime, Nato has taken an important step towards a more realistic non-nuclear defence in Europe.

Five years after the death of President Tito, day-trippers can visit some of his retreats, but not the ultimate hideaway, the island of Vanga. MICHAEL SIMMONS reports

New light on a legend in his long lifetime

ON A pleasantly wooded hill, two miles from the centre of Belgrade, well behaved lines of schoolchildren wind their way through the sweet-smelling House of Flowers, paying their respects to the white marble tomb of the late President Tito. Homage to the man they call "the great revolutionary strategist, military commander and statesman" is now a routine part of their curriculum.

Inevitably, Tito remains a legend, and not only children generate his memories. His picture is still on the walls of public offices, tapes and books of his speeches are issued and re-issued, and one can buy a tie-pin based on his signature, busts and statues everywhere.

But now, five years after his death the legend is giving way to the man himself. Suddenly there are new clues available to his complicated personality, his enthusiasms and his susceptibilities. The security around him while he lived was impenetrable, but one or two doors are now beginning to open.

The beautiful island of Brioni, off the Adriatic coast, was his exclusive haunt of heavily-guarded retreat. Here he escaped whenever he could and received some heads of state, but today it is a national park and since last year the Perito, an 80-foot passenger steamer, has been bringing up to 1,000 trippers a day across from Pula to make the circuit with a guide in a lurid red and yellow plastic "train."

Tito first set foot on Brioni in June, 1947, when Allied bomb damage, inflicted three weeks before the war ended, was still severe. To this once malaria-ridden archipelago, previously an exclusive haunt of the Austro-Hungarian aristocracy and then a retreat for European intelligentsia, he staked his claim.

He restored a villa called Jadranka on the south of the island and was installed there by 1949. Then he had the Bijela Villa — the White House — built from scratch 200 yards along the shore. High fences and armed guards — now as then — prevent access, but his safari park with gifts from foreign governments — camels, zebras, and impalas — graze with the sheep, and are part of the island tour. So is the zoo and the museum, filled

with photographs of himself with leaders from Haile Selassie to Leonid Brezhnev, and one glass case containing his sun-hat and walking stick. His luxury yacht, the Podgorica, is still moored in the harbour.

But Tito's ultimate hideaway lies on Vanga, a much smaller, even more fragrant island just across the bay from the White House. Here he withdrew to be with himself, away from the prying eyes of his entourage, from his family, and even from visiting dignitaries. Only his closest allies and friends would be permitted.

Occasional handbills of Yugoslavs have visited Vanga but, so far, almost no one else. It remains closed and officially inaccessible, as far as Yugoslavia as one can get from Belgrade — or Moscow.

It was deserted when Tito came, but on bits of paper the great revolutionary strategist sketched what he wanted and bewildered builders and gardeners did their best.

The first construction became a white and yellow room, the Fisherman's Salon, and here together with Pandit Nehru and Gamal Abdul Nasser, the non-aligned movement was conceived, and later born with the signing of the Brioni Declaration of 1956.

In another building, there is a vast sitting room, the size of a classroom, and nearby, a workshop where Tito, once a locksmith's apprentice, liked to tinker, and an adjoining darkroom. But most of the tools, resting on velvet cushions in glass cases, have never been used.

The whole complex says much about the man. Certainly, there is an undeniable intimacy, but for the most part the rooms are cluttered with furniture — richly-carved and plain, plastic — trophies, gadgets and hundreds of gifts from world leaders. The "taste" varies widely: from peasant craftsmanship, through chromium-plated kitsch to occasional works of art.

Perhaps Tito had a deprived childhood — he was one of 15 — and perhaps his father was weak, but on Vanga he made up for all. He fought his way to the top, and pampered himself to the end when he got there. He would insist on making his own coffee, and there is an elaborate bottle opener on his desk. A treasured drawing of his mother was

only completed when the artist did what the strategist dictated.

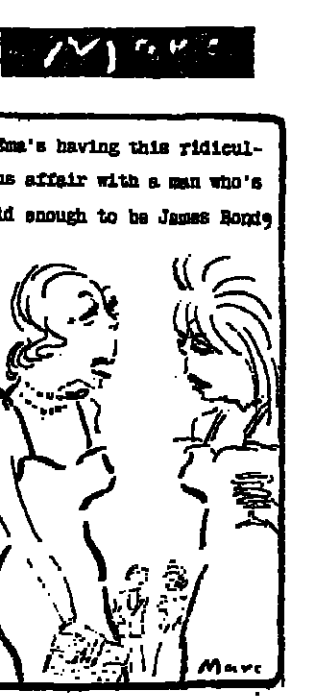
"He knew what he wanted," says a guide who knew him. "But he never used an imperative. If he said 'I would like this or that' it was enough. But he liked to watch work in progress."

And how. Some mornings Tito was up before his staff, digging in his garden or his vineyard, telling the gardeners, what to do, or undo, next. He would "make suggestions," the guide says, and even in such idyllic surroundings could only relax by being busy.

It was the same in his official residence in Belgrade: over-sized rooms of state, comfortable, but inclined to be formless. In addition, the billiard house in the grounds, another workshop, darkroom and coffee machine are something else.

Tito was always acutely conscious of his own and his country's security. His uncertain childhood and a volatile career led to a certain conspicuous consumption. He collected trinkets and souvenirs as eagerly as he courted world leaders, both gave him very different types of support.

But Vanga, the ultimate trinket, is not visited by the Brioni day trippers: there isn't room for them anyway. For the time being, they make do with the Tito legend.



Labour puts its housing policy in order

HOUSING will be a major priority for the next Labour government for both economic and social reasons. Investment will be used to create real jobs by meeting real needs and there is no greater need than in housing.

Some in local government feel they may see a degree of centralism in the approach, but they would be wrong. To the individual and the family all forms of government are centralist, and it is to people the policy is directed.

We believe everyone should have a choice, and live and real control over their home and environment. We shall commence a major programme of housing production;

There will be a charter of rights for people; be they owners, tenants, or the homeless;

There is a fundamental commitment to greater choice by people at the clear expense of centralism;

Local authorities will be transformed from seeing themselves or being seen as just big public landlords, to strategic housing authorities;

There will be greater fairness over the finance in housing.

Poor housing is a false economy. We cannot meet the precise extra burden it places on the NHS but extra burden there is without doubt. It restricts mobility and contributes to economic decline.

There are few imports in construction and high numbers of jobs are created for each pound of investment. Investment in housing, be it

new or improvement and repairs, is prudent investment. Yet, since 1979 housing has borne the brunt of public spending cuts. We now spend less of a proportion of our national income on housing than any other EEC member state.

A major programme will be required to get back to the 1974 levels of house building. To achieve this will require an extra 100,000 per year for 2,000 extra starts per week.

In addition to shortage we shall be confronted by a huge problem of poor quality and ageing housing. Our document is probably the first ever from the Labour Party to quote The Building Employers' Confederation in support of our assessment of the problem.

Rents have been forced up well over inflation and yet tenants get less service by way of repairs. Disrepair is increasing fastest amongst home owners. The elderly are trapped in unsuitable housing and the abandonment of minimum standards has led to the building of cramped homes. The mortgage rate has been on average 50 per cent higher than under the Labour government.

Such problems are inevitable in the absence of a housing policy operated by central government.

Our targets will be to build and repair at a rate faster than housing is decaying.

A priority has to be the system-built estates. These were, in effect, forced upon local councils by both Labour and Tory governments. A national programme is required. Local councils are simply in no position to face the problem alone.

Labour's housing policy was laid out last night in a speech by Jeff Rooker, shadow housing spokesman and MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, at a Glasgow

conference on Housing Policy in the 1990s. It draws on a policy document, Better Homes for the Future, which will go before Labour's national executive

This applies to even the largest, such as Birmingham, with its 429 tower blocks and Manchester, with its unique legacy of a colossal amount of deck access units of accommodation. (I refuse to call them homes). Many will be demolished and the debts will have to be written off. In addition, the money spent dismantling such estates cannot possibly be counted as "housing investment" as is the case today.

We in the Labour Party have learnt from mistakes of the past. Vast estates will not be built again. There will be no rush to throw up cheap homes which become sub-standard in little more than a decade.

No one sector can do it all. Labour expects the private sector to maintain and improve present levels of output. But we will look to the public sector to plan major expansion of homes for both rent and sale.

Local housing plans will be drawn up with full consultation. The plans will replace the present Housing Investment Programme system and they will be comprehensive. A housing finance system which acts as a disincentive to new investment in areas will be scrapped. Extra funds will be made available for agreed investment priorities.

The number of households will increase by 14 per cent by the year 2001 and yet the

population will have only grown by 4 per cent.

A New Housing Action Council will be set up. Comprising representatives of local councils, industry, the professions, the voluntary sector, tenants and residents groups, and the trade unions. It will advise on design and construction, and policies of management, decentralisation and co-operative housing. It will have a research capability.

Minimum standards will have to be re-introduced. These will go beyond the now outdated Parker Morris space standards. We must deal with noise insulation, heating, internal layout, energy conservation etc.

The construction of one bedroom, one living room dwellings on a massive scale is going to lead to problems in the future which will in effect curtail the freedom of people. The elderly whether in sheltered accommodation or not, have as much right to have their children or grandchildren stay with them as any other member of society.

I know of many cases where my elderly constituents have had to have recourse to the NHS or social services for nursing accommodation when their families would have been quite willing to do the job if it were not for lack of a spare bedroom.

Labour is determined to make a reality of choice in housing. To be able to choose whether to rent or buy can only be real if

there is a supply of homes available to rent and buy at a price people can afford. This is not the case under the Tories.

There is no reason why the tenure of housing cannot change as often as people desire according to their circumstances. The mixing of tenures, and changing of tenures according to the needs, wants, and aspirations of people, rather than according to bureaucratic rules is our aim.

There will be occasions when owner occupiers would happily sell to the council in exchange for a tenancy. This has happened frequently in the past and we will certainly re-introduce the option as part of our policy on greater choice.

Local authorities will again, under existing legislation, be able to buy in the market either to vary their stock replace stock or simply to meet the need for homes to rent.

Tenants of absentee private landlords will get the right to buy or to have a local council or nominated housing association manage their property when the repairs are not carried out. This spells the end of private sector renting by absentee landlords for a commercial profit as a major provider of housing in Britain.

Our policy of choice will end the attempts by some to see tenure as a class issue or

indeed as a vote determining issue.

Housing associations will play a major role. If they are community based so much the better.

It has been Labour policy for more than a decade that local authorities should encourage tenant management co-ops. Progress has been slow. We are, therefore, going to give a legal right to local authority tenants to be able to manage their own housing if they wish.

Labour sees housing co-ops as a flagships for change towards tenant participation in housing. We shall give firm government support to co-ops where tenants collectively own the accommodation but no individual holds a stake.

We shall seek for all tenants real control over their homes and we do not mean the colour of paint on the front door. We mean design, layout, repair priorities, allocation, policies, etc. Safeguards of equal opportunity and anti discrimination can easily be operated.

Our proposed Housing Rights Act will improve the position of the homeless who are stigmatised under present legislation. There will be a mandatory duty on local councils to enforce satisfactory standards of safety, space, and repairs, in all multi-occupied housing.

Our rights for tenants will embrace membership of local authority housing committees and housing association management committees.

Leaseholders are more than capable of knowing when managing agents are not up to the job. They will have the power of hire and fire. They will also have the right to collectively buy the freehold which is a long overdue reform for flat

dwellers. It was Labour which gave the right to leaseholders in houses.

The fair rent system is not working as it should be. Repeated failure to repair is not taken into account but scarcity is. Our reforms will reverse this.

A new Housing Tribunal with a conciliatory and arbitral role will replace the intimidatory court proceedings. Public and private landlords will be covered by its operation.

Fairness in financial treatment for different tenures of housing is our objective.

The nation as a whole must pay for its housing stock. A subsidy is a subsidy whether it is called housing benefit, mortgage tax relief, improvement grants, housing association grant or local authority subsidy. The system is in a mess. Some of the poorest receive little or no help. Some subsidies are directed towards the buildings where owners are towards the people who live in them.

The overall system of finance must lead to:

High levels of housing investment;

Fair treatment for tenants and owners;

Redistribution from the well off to the less well off;

Minimum reliance on means testing;

More efficient use of the housing stock.

The proposals in our document go only part of the way to removing the anomalies, inequities and complexities of the current system. A much more fundamental appraisal of housing finance is required and this will be part of the review which is already being undertaken of the benefit and tax systems which themselves cannot be looked at in isolation.

require ministerial approval before more money can be spent, the pace of the defence programme can be slowed down and with luck financial demands can be kept roughly in line with the money likely to be available. One man's failure to take decisions is another man's flexibility.

But where does this leave British defence policy? The cuts in the programme that will not happen simply by not taking decisions are essentially random and depend entirely on what projects wait approval over the next couple of years. They are likely to be slowed down, postponed, or never approved. Projects that are never approved cannot be described as "cancelled" and so the political problems are reduced.

But this policy of Defence Review by default, if this sort of expediency can be graced with the title "policy", will only postpone the inevitable, though it does that it will have met its political objective. In the end, and that is not far away, any government is going to have to face up to the fact that Britain is living far beyond its means in defence. A quart cannot be squeezed out of a pint pot.

All four major defence roles - Trident, BAOR, UK defence, a major Navy together with luxury for the Services cannot be funded from the existing defence budget indefinitely or indeed from any defence budget that could be even remotely affordable. Carrying on with the Heseltine policy of pretending there is no problem but simply cutting down all round by a policy of inertia is the worst of all possible solutions.

At some point a government is going to have to grapple with the fact that Britain's illusion that it is a world power cannot be sustained any longer. Indeed if the economy continues on its current path the illusion that we are a medium sized European power may be difficult to maintain.

All of this will mean difficult political decisions and massive rows with the entrenched interests in the defence establishment who will fight tooth and nail to defend the status quo. But this is what governments are paid to do. The current government shows no sign of wanting to even admit that there is a problem.

Clive Ponting was an assistant secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

POINTS OF ORDER

LET US pause momentarily this week to consider the mysterious working of fate, as it has affected the careers of two Labour politicians who were once regarded as so similar as to be virtually twins. One of a sudden Ken Livingstone and Ted Knight, the terrible twins of London's South Bank, look profoundly different in character as well as in prospects.

Red Ted, true to his oaths of loyalty to the ratepayers of the London Borough of Lambeth, now stands alone as the only council which still defies the Government by refusing to set a rate. He faces saturation, bankruptcy, imprisonment and (worst of all for a politician) a ban on holding public office.

Red Ken, on the other hand, neatly slipped out from a somewhat similar predicament at Lambeth, as a bewildering smokescreen of procedural confusion. He is now the adopted candidate for the safe Labour seat of Brent East, and is clearly poised for a no less spectacular Parliamentary career than the one he has just concluded in local government.

Many of Red Ted's Trotskyist allies would not regard this as a dramatic justification of their abiding contempt for "Labourism", and confirmation of their view that all those not steeped in the theories of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky will inevitably betray the cause of the proletariat when the pressure is on.

The matter could, however, be looked at from the opposite angle, as proof that an excessive quantity of ideological lumber can form a barrier between a politician and the real world. Certainly Mr Livingstone has never been weighed down by the burden of luggage. Instead, he has the common touch, and it has magically transformed him from an electoral liability to a positive asset for the Labour Party and if it cost a little innocent blood, what's that between comrades?

IF THERE is one thing a fully fledged Cabinet minister dislikes more than an uppity civil servant, it is an uppity political advisor in somebody else's department. And of the latter breed, the sort that can be guaranteed to burst blood vessels is the sort that belongs to the Prime Minister's office.

Now Ministers report that the very superior not to say arrogant, members of Mrs Thatcher's Think Tank really are getting a bit too uppity. Not only are they attending Cabinet committee meetings in order to see how their ideas are going down; they are sitting at the table with the grown ups, and joining in the conversation.

To be sure, the established standing committees like the very grand Defence and Overseas Policy Committees are spared the undiluted views of the Think Tank's Mr John Redwood and his colleague, blue-blooded Mr Christopher Monckton, even if they have to suffer their views in writing. But the members of the Cabinet's less prestigious ad hoc committee - the ones identified by the abbreviation MISC followed by a number - are led by the ultra-right wing views of a group which clearly regards itself as the keeper of the Prime Minister's conscience.

BELYING his reputation as the Cabinet's most consummate self-publicist, Mr Michael Heseltine seemed to be doing his utmost to secure a low profile for himself in the annual Commons Defence debate this week. No doubt with more than half an eye on his critics in the Defence Select Committee, he announced in advance that he had nothing new to say - and then took nearly an hour to say it.

But Someone Up There evidently had other plans for the Defence Secretary. Two-thirds into his speech, suddenly, he poured through the windows of the chamber, catching the famous Heseltine locks in its effluence. MPs threw up their hands to see what was from the blazing figure at the Despatch Box. Was it a man, or a god?

However officialdom has little time for magic moments. The deputy sergeant-at-arms went forward, pressed a button, and the power driven blinds slid silently into position. The Defence Secretary was extinguished like a penny candle.

IT IS beginning to look as if Mr George Younger, the man who has run Scotland for Mrs Thatcher ever since the present government took office in 1979, may not get the move he so desperately wants in the approaching ministerial reshuffle. The word reaching the Scottish Office is that she wants him to stay on to see through the promised reform of local government finance.

To Mr Younger, that may look like a sentence. If the same consideration were to apply to Mr Patrick Jenkin, it might look like a reprieve.

Ian Aitken

THE ANNUAL Defence White Paper is normally written in about 30 different divisions inside the Ministry of Defence and then stuck together. This year's effort is no exception. But do the prose and the multi-colour graphics tell us what is really going on inside the bureaucracy that tries to control the defence programme? The answer has to be "No".

Behind the bland and reassuring tones there are major cracks in Britain's defence structure and papering them over is becoming more difficult.

In the last few weeks the House of Commons Defence Committee has been taking evidence on the White Paper. They too were worried about the trends but had great difficulty in finding out the facts. As they said in their report published earlier this week, "our purpose was frustrated by vague and evasive answers and elegant but unhelpful hypotheses." A sure sign that the Defence bureaucracy has something to hide.

The real crux of the White Paper, and the problems identified by the Defence Committee, are summed up in a paragraph worthy of Yes, Minister.

It says: "The annual re-casting of forward defence plans, related to assumptions endorsed for costing purposes only... provides a basic framework within which Ministers can authorise expenditure commitments, with confidence that these can be discharged within the future resources expected to be available for defence. Programme adjustment is a continuing process, in which the strict control of forward commitment helps to maintain flexibility."

In order to translate this deliberately obscure drafting into plain English we need to look back over what has been happening to the defence programme since John Nott's Defence Review of 1981.

When Heseltine took over at Defence in early 1983 he had an immediate political problem in defeating CND before the election. Once this had been achieved he had to decide how to continue making a political impact. In order to show that he was in charge of the Ministry he decided to reorganise it. Now that has been carried out, but has nothing to do with the problems in financing the defence programme that have continued

HESELTINE'S COMET - silently, the bright ball of gas orbits the ministry once every 76 days.



Defending an illusion

CLIVE PONTING

to mount since the Falklands war.

Equipment costs have continued their normal upward path. Trident costs, not due to be spent until later in the decade, have risen as the price of becoming more complex and the pound has fallen. The Navy has gained some short term relief as Trident spending has been delayed and has used the money to bring all eight ships out of the standby squadron into full service with little thought about how they would be financed and manned in the long term.

The extra cost of the general pay rises given to the Services now has to be found from within the defence budget.

But the most fundamental decision taken by the government is to halt any further increase in defence spending in order to help pay for tax cuts before the next election. Next year there will be little, if any, real growth in defence expenditure and if inflation is more than 3 per cent there will be cuts. Yet at the same time all the pressure from within the defence programme that is

once again more than the country can afford will be in the opposite direction.

Heseltine, therefore, has a major problem to resolve, one that is made worse because politically, he cannot afford to have another Defence Review before the next election. The illusion has to be maintained that Britain can afford an expensive new nuclear deterrent, a major world navy, a massive army, in Europe, a world wide strategic role and a numerous fleet, for the Services from an economy in seemingly unstoppable decline.

No doubt Heseltine feels that a move to a new Cabinet post in the autumn reshuffle would be personally desirable and leave his successor to deal with these problems.

Behind all the careful drafting of the White Paper and the evidence to the Defence Committee about "programme adjustment" as a "continuing process" and the need to "maintain flexibility" a Defence Review is in fact underway. But unlike 1981 when two dreaded words could not be used in public, this time Ministers

are trying to pretend, even to themselves, that nothing fundamental is taking place.

Heseltine is notorious within the ministry for his extremely slow decision taking. This is not helped by his long absences from the office. Defence Ministry sources say that he was only in the office for four or five days last month.

He has now extended this lethargy into a tool for defence planning. By slowing up the decision-taking process for new projects, and for existing projects that

How to support the survivors when disaster strikes



OUT OF COURT

Paul Fenn

THIS has been the year of the football disaster. Other kinds of tragedy in previous years have often generated a host of separate charitable funds arising out of immense public sympathy for the victims.

Recent tragedies involving the death of children on organised school trips have only served to heighten the public perception of disaster as a phenomenon, leaving numerous potentially uncompensated losses for the injured and the bereaved.

Lack of compensation may relate to the absence or inadequacy of insurance (as in the Bradford fire), or to the difficulty in determining who was to blame, apprehending them, and extracting payment (as is presumably the

case in the Brussels tragedy).

So contributions which do flood in to some extent recognise the limitations of our existing compensatory institutions, such as insurance and damage awards through the courts. It is fair to say that these same limitations are present when disaster strikes on a much more intimate scale, as a result of "everyday" accidents.

Surely the growth of the disaster fund industry carries a lesson for us all. If we are concerned to ensure adequate compensation for the disabled and the bereaved, we should look to the available alternatives.

Is the market for private insurance of life and limb working? Does the need to prove fault provide an

effective bar to the pursuit of compensation through the courts? Is the social security system adequate to fill the gaps left by the other alternatives?

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the current mishmash of benefits is inadequate for the majority, that this perception is reflected by the growth of charitable contributions, and that a far more equitable and satisfactory approach to compensation would be to utilise the pool of resources currently generated from all sources to provide a publicly financed, comprehensive disability income system: a national disaster fund, in effect.

There are at least two major problems with the implementation of such a scheme. First, after the pretexts about the administration

of the Penlee lifeboat disaster fund - in which a spreading of benefits was hinted at - is it possible that individuals' willingness to give is only specific to particular events and particular victims?

While this clearly appears to be the case, it should in no way affect the case for a comprehensive disability income: donations would continue to be made voluntarily, but at a lower rate reflecting donors' recognition that the victims' losses are less severe on account of the (compulsorily funded) disability income.

The second objection relates to the use of resources previously generated through the courts: if these are appropriated through the abolition of the damages remedy, it is some-

times argued that the community will be deprived of the means to punish and deter those who can be held responsible for accidents and major disasters.

This is not strictly true. Even if it could be demonstrated that such financial penalties do affect the behaviour of those responsible, there is no reason why they should be administered in conjunction with compensatory awards.

There are other means of monitoring and regulating potentially dangerous activity: if these are found to be inadequate then they too need to be overhauled, but their success or failure can surely be divorced from the questions of financing equitable compensation.

The legal system of dam-

ages has been demonstrated to be a particularly inefficient means of combining the objectives of deterrence and compensation. Many individuals and companies have liability insurance which dilutes the deterrent effect of high damage awards.

The system is extremely costly to administer, with administration costs swallowing up some 40 per cent of total resources, and is also exceedingly selective, with only 12 per cent of all accident victims obtaining any damages at all in a recent survey. (D. R. Harris et al. Compensation and Support for Illness and Injury, Oxford, 1984).

Paul Fenn is Senior Research Officer, Centre for Socio Legal Studies, Oxford.

ANOTHER SPLENDID HALF OF GUINNESS.

"I'm delighted to announce very favourable half-year results for Guinness PLC.

Profits of £37.2 million for the six months ended 31st March 1985 are a record. They represent an increase over the same period last year of 20%. Profits for the U.K. alone increased by 67% to £14.9 million.

This is the seventh successive time I've had improved performance to report, so I think our aim to establish Guinness PLC as a dynamic consumer products and services company with exciting long term prospects can be said to have been achieved.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In many ways it's a new Guinness, with four ingredients. International Beverages, Retailing, Healthcare and Publishing.

These satisfy one or both of our twin growth strategies.

Profit growth for today, by continuous improvement in our established businesses, International Beverages and Retailing.

Profit growth for tomorrow by investment in growth sectors within our established businesses and in exciting new areas such as Healthcare and Publishing.

Vital to the success of both these strategies is the new management team assembled over the past three years.

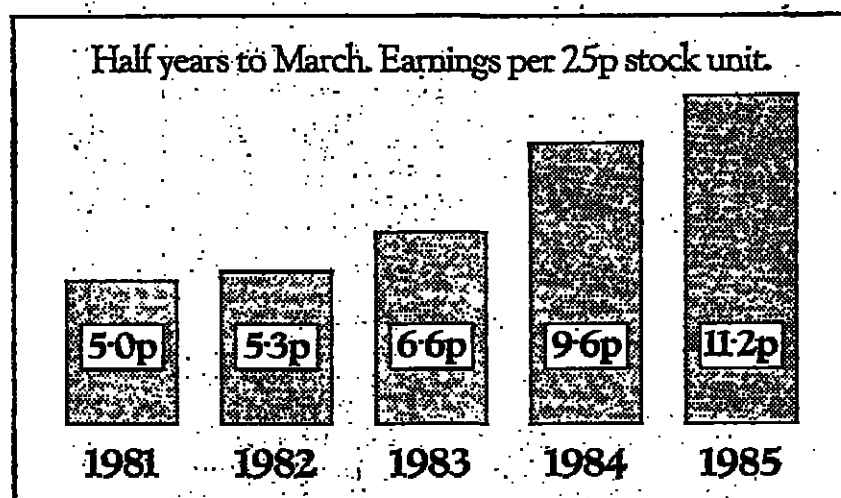
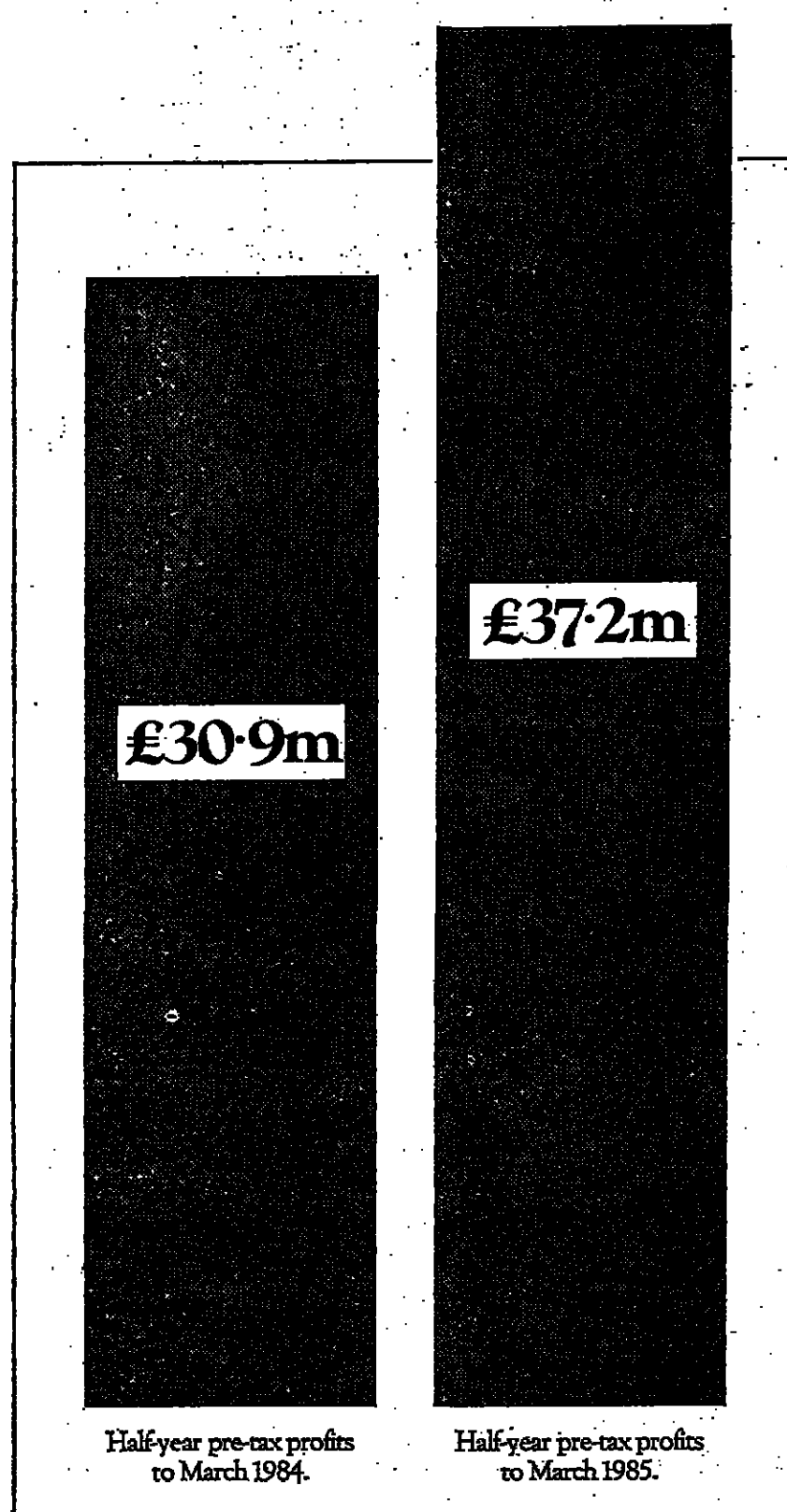
Today's results reflect their work.

The effectiveness of our strategies and management is best illustrated by the fact that this year, earnings per share have increased by 17% and the net dividend has increased by 10% to a record 2.00p.

INTERNATIONAL BEVERAGES

Brewing is our solid foundation. Trading profits have increased by 13%.

In our traditional home markets the positive impact of our marketing thrust designed to revitalise the Guinness Brands continues.



Volume sales of Draught Guinness in Britain and Ireland have increased.

In the U.S., the Guinness Import Company continues to out-perform the others in its sector of the market, and the growth rate in Germany has also accelerated.

RETAILING

We see retailing as a major growth area for Guinness PLC.

The way Martin the Newsagent chain has already performed since our acquisition last year is very encouraging.

Lavells, our other newsagent chain, enjoys industry-best profitability.

Further evidence of our wish to expand in retailing has been our acquisition of the 7-Eleven chain. A unique concept in convenience shopping.

HEALTHCARE

We have identified Healthcare as an area of outstanding growth potential, and our portfolio currently consists of Champneys Health Spas in Hertfordshire and Stobo Castle in Scotland and Nature's Best Health Products.

PUBLISHING

Guinness Publishing has had an injection of new management and now accounts for some fifty titles.

The division has expanded its operation too, into the Guinness World of Records Exhibition at London's Piccadilly Circus.

Earlier, I described the company as the new Guinness. But an adaptation of our famous slogan from the past seems appropriate. Guinness is good for investors."

Ernest W. Saunders
ERNEST W. SAUNDERS, Chief Executive

GUINNESS PLC
GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR INVESTORS

Conrad Black may appear a Colonial boy but his roots go deep into Fleet Street



NOTEBOOK

Edited by Hamish McRae

IS CONRAD Black to be the next proprietor of the Daily and Sunday Telegraph? It is not yet clear, but it may

well turn out that way. It is important to be precise about the nature of the agreement between the Telegraph, the institutions and Mr Black which will, barring some last minute accident, be signed today. Conrad Black does not have any option to buy the papers. His option is to match any other bid for the controlling family interest of Lord Hartwell, should the family wish (or need) to sell.

This is a reasonable protection of Mr Black's investment, for he would not want to end up as a minority holder in an enterprise controlled by some other group. What Mr Black has lost is the ability to choose the next owner of his interest, should Mr Black want their shares. Whether they sell hinges crucially on the smooth transition of the printing arrangements to docklands and the general economic

workforce. The greater the papers. Indeed the shift to docklands is so important that you could almost argue that the choice of proprietor lies in the hands of the workforce. The greater the difficulties, the greater the possibility that more finance will be needed, and the Berry family, headed by Lord Hartwell, will need to relinquish control to get it.

Whether or not this happens, the deal looks an extremely good one from the point of view of Mr Black. In the event of the shift to docklands being a success, he has made a profitable investment and in the event of it not being a success, he gains control of what is potentially one of the most financially attractive products in the world of the press. It is difficult not to conclude that there must have been other ways of providing

for the future of the paper. By seeking to retain control for the time being, the Berry family have greatly reduced the possibility that ownership of the group could pass either to a broadly based consortium of British institutions, or to a newspaper trust. The proprietorial style of a newspaper ownership is preserved by this deal.

Indeed were Mr Black to take over the group it would be a neat example of history turning through 360 degrees. His mother's family was part of the syndicate that controlled the Telegraph in the last century, long before the Berrys appeared on the scene.

White flag

SO WESTLAND has run up the white flag in its fight for survival as an independent entity and reluctantly

accepted the Bristow bid. So be it. But need things have turned out this way? Clearly the Westland board made a number of serious miscalculations. One was in the marketplace, where it should have been clear that a falling order book would force it to find some additional financial resources if it was to press through. This should have been clear for several months, at least. As it was, it failed to take action in time: only when it was confronted by the bid did it seek some white knight to rescue it from the clutches of Mr Bristow. This was far too late.

The second miscalculation was that the board overestimated the attractiveness of the company to other buyers. It may sound curious to non-specialists, but helicopter technology is really rather crude by modern aircraft standards.

We tend to think of helicopters as wonderful examples of the human mastery over the laws of gravity, but apart from the rotor and the gearbox, which you buy in the things are rather simple boxes. One of the first types of product that aircraft industries in the newly industrialised world start to build is helicopters. It is one of the easy ways into the trade.

That was the reason that companies like British Aerospace were unwilling to step in. The key in that business is, as always, adding value, and you cannot easily add much value in helicopter fabrication. BAE sees its future instead in things like satellites and systems. You can conclude from all this that Westland did not really deserve to remain independent. The next question is whether, Bristow, with its experience as an operator of the things, can produce a bet-

ter mousetrap. Does two and two make five? No one knows, but it is not a normal synergy in other aspects of commercial life.

Troubled Acorn

THE ACORN rescue deal, patched together in February with Italy's Olivetti getting 49 per cent of the company, now looks in extreme difficulty. This can only cause problems too for the brave souls now trying to arrange a parachute for Sinclair Research.

Acorn's major trade creditor, A.B. Electronics, owed at least £3 million, confirms it has opened up discussions with the company, which is now known to be trying to reschedule its debts and monthly repayments. The company's position has deteriorated since its rescue:

aside from its cash problems, it has competitors hammering at its educational computer market. ACT, as we report on page 19, is going into school computers. Olivetti has the option to increase its interest to 51 per cent, and is clearly looking hard at its involvement. Will it go deeper in?

If its input of £10 million cash were not sufficient, a larger stake would presumably become inevitable. Those close to but outside the company, believe that Olivetti has wasted valuable time, allowing the existing executive management, under their new and able company chairman Dr Alex Reid to continue unreformed. It was not until last week that it appointed a senior executive, Mr Alex Uboldi, as acting managing director. Olivetti, quite clearly, is about to get very tough.

Airline deal set to thwart Carl Icahn's hostile takeover

Texas Air to buy TWA for £630m

From Mark Tran in Washington

TWA, one of the world's largest airlines, is set to change hands in a takeover deal worth \$793 million (£630 million).

Texas Air, parent company of the once-troubled Continental Airlines, has emerged as the buyer which TWA has been seeking in its own attempts to thwart a hostile takeover move by New York share trader, Carl Icahn.

Transworld Airlines has been seeking a friendly buyer following Mr Icahn's acquisition of a formidable 22.8 per cent stake in the airline.

The Texas Air bid calls for

the company to pay \$23 a share for each of TWA's 34.5 million shares outstanding. The deal would result in one of the largest commercial airline takeovers in the US. However, the two companies will have to find a way to deal with Mr Icahn, who already owns 33.8 per cent of TWA stock. He had offered to buy TWA for \$600 million at \$15 a share.

TWA has fought doggedly to stay out of Mr Icahn's clutches. It lobbied hard with Congress for legislation that would have the effect of blocking any attempt, if Mr Icahn so wished, to break up the company once he acquired it. It has sought for the US

Transportation Board to declare Mr Icahn unfit to run an airline.

TWA went to court to stop Mr Icahn from buying further shares in its stock. But a state court in Missouri ruled in order it had issued earlier in the month that barred him from acquiring more TWA stock on the grounds that TWA was negotiating with other interested suitors.

The purchase of TWA would mean another major step by Texas Air boss, Mr Frank Lorenzo. In 1983, he filed for bankruptcy for Continental Airlines. While it was protected from creditors, he grounded the fleet, slashed the

number of routes and cut back staff to 4,000 from 12,000 and salaries as well. There were howls of rage from some within the airline industry, but the medicine seems to have got Continental back on its feet.

In another airline development, United Airlines and its 5,000 pilots have reached tentative agreement to end the pilots' 26-day-old strike. The economic issues, involving a two tier wage scale with lower pay for new pilots, were resolved three weeks ago. But final agreements had been held up over the terms under which those who did not cross the picket lines would return to work.

Surplus beef stocks treble

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture Correspondent

STOCKS of surplus beef rose throughout last year until, by December, the amount in intervention cold stores had more than trebled and stood at \$2,430 tonnes, valued at \$95 million.

According to the annual report of the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, this was because market prices were too low. "Market prices were such that buying (into intervention stores) continued without interruption throughout the year," the report says.

In addition, beef cattle farmers continued throughout 1984 to receive payments under the beef premium scheme, which is unique to Britain and only grudgingly allowed by the other EEC member governments.

Beef premium payments to farmers in Britain totalled almost £144 million during the year, although nearly £10 million of the sum went to the Irish Government for beef produced in the Republic, but destined for consumption in Britain.

Stocks of surplus butter also rose sharply during 1984. Of almost 70,000 tonnes of butter offered to the Intervention Board, \$5,255 tonnes were accepted for storage, 3,325 tonnes rejected on quality grounds, and 13,544 tonnes were still being tested at the end of the year.

There were 144,430 tonnes of butter in store by the end of 1984, valued at \$279 million. The surplus of cheap, Christmas butter involved 39,200 tonnes.

The consumer subsidy on butter, which ended as part of this year's EEC farm price settlement, amounted to almost \$38 million during 1984.

There were 92,705 tonnes of skimmed milk powder in public surplus stores at the end of last year, valued at \$83 million.

At the same time, stocks of surplus cereals in public store in Britain amounted to 726,738 tonnes of barley, 10,151 tonnes of bread-making wheat, and 1,945,421 tonnes of feed wheat, all from the 1984 record harvest.

The latest figures will ensure renewed demands from Opposition spokesmen and Conservative critics of the EEC that stocks are used in hungry areas of the world, and not sold off cheaply to the Soviet Union, or destroyed.

During 1984 54,411 tonnes of bread-making wheat were released from intervention stocks for food aid, and 25,000 tonnes were sold to third countries as animal feed.

Pact on Berry shares could win Black control of Telegraph

By Maggie Brown

Mr Conrad Black, the Canadian multi-millionaire buying a 14 per cent stake in the Daily Telegraph, has struck a deal with the dominant Berry family proprietors which could give him outright control in the future.

He will have the opportunity to match the highest bidder for the 60 per cent of the company held by the Berry family after the current share sale, should they ever decide to sell out.

This does not amount to full pre-emption rights, enabling him to shut out any other group or prevent an eventual auction for the 130-year-old Daily Telegraph newspaper,

and its sister Sunday Telegraph, but it does put the 40-year-old Canadian in an extremely favourable position.

The £110 million total fund-raising deal enabling the Daily Telegraph to re-open with new plant and equipment is due to be signed this afternoon at 3 pm. The package is divided into £30 million raised through the sale of 40 per cent of the company's shares, and £80 million in a leasing finance deal through Security Pacific.

Mr Black, who was not available for comment in Montreal, where he is based, was able to negotiate a non-executive seat on the Daily Telegraph's board as the price for his £10 million investment. Then, at a later date, he managed to secure the

option to bid for the family holding, should it ever become free.

Mr Hugh Lawson, deputy managing director of the Daily Telegraph, refused to comment on the option. "Whether it is true or false I have no idea," he said. The advisers to the company, brokers Cazenove and merchant bankers N. M. Rothschild, have found the option a source of institutional opposition.

There appears to have been a smallish change in the line-up of British institutions prepared to invest during the week: a few have dropped out, to be replaced by others, though whether this has been caused by the Conrad Black deal or general adverse comment is difficult to gauge.

Westland gives in to Bristow

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Westland, the UK's only helicopter manufacturer, has given up the fight to save the £39 million takeover bid by a consortium led by Alan Bristow.

Sir Basil Blackwell, chairman of Westland, last night signalled the end of the firm's independence by recommending shareholders to accept the £39 million offer from the Bristow-led consortium, Bristow Rotorcraft.

Westland's surrender marks the end of a desperate three week search to find a friendly alternative buyer for the business and means that Bristow Rotorcraft should formally complete the takeover within a matter of weeks.

Last night Sir Basil said he and his fellow directors would be pledging their personal stake of 25,640 Westland shares to Bristow Rotorcraft.

Sir Basil revealed that he had conducted discussions with a number of unnamed parties whom he believed could bring Westland the necessary greater strength and credibility in finance and marketing.

However none of these discussions produced a suitable alternative and Westland was left with little option but to support the Bristow Rotorcraft offer.

Sir Basil nevertheless added that the Westland board feels the company's long term future would be better served by an association with a substantial international business. But this, he said, was not currently available.

Bristow Rotorcraft is a newly formed company supported by leading City financial institutions and the powerful Kuwait Investment Office.

Westland's surrender now opens the way for Mr Bristow, a helicopter operator, to begin the substantial task of rebuilding the loss-making company which has run into difficulties because of a lack of new orders.

Mr Bristow has promised to improve the management at Westland, step up the sales and marketing effort and accelerate the development of the promising EH101 helicopter project with Italy.

Christian Salvesen offer to raise £66m

By our Financial Staff

One of the UK's largest private companies, Christian Salvesen is going public with a £66 million offer for sale because the Church of Scotland wants to cash in on its success.

Salvesen was founded in 1872 by a Norwegian who settled in Scotland and built up a business which included selling Icelandic whales. A son of the founder bequeathed shares to the Church of Scotland whose 6 per cent stake is now worth £17 million. The Church felt that the size of the holding was an embarrassment and contributed to pressure on the fifth generation of Salvesens to go public. The company will have a market value of £315 million.

Kleinwort Benson is offering 20.8 per cent of the company at 115p a share from next Friday. Until now Salvesen, which has a turnover of £256 million, has been owned by 250 family members, 350 employees and some institutions, along with the Church of Scotland.

Major shareholders and the directors, including chairman Mr Gerald Elliot, have been persuaded to put at least 10



Gerald Elliot

per cent of their stakes up for sale and the company is also issuing 20 million new shares to raise £21.35 million of fresh capital for expansion.

The groups' businesses are now centred on the food industry where it processes, freezes and distributes for retailers like Marks and Spencer and manufacturers who include Birds Eye.

Food contributed £19.3 million towards trading profits of £24.4 million last year with property, housebuilding and marine and industrial services chipping in the remainder.

The company has cut down its wide range of activities in a heavy rationalisation programme since the mid-seventies and now wants to invest more in its three core businesses. Pre-tax profits have grown from £15.1 million in 1982 to £33.4 million last year. There is no profit or dividend forecast for the current year.

Abbey attracts £4.6 bn

By Mary Brasier

The £243 million offer for sale of shares in Abbey Life was more than 19 times oversubscribed and attracted £4.6 billion of investors' money, it was announced yesterday.

The rush to invest in the life assurance group means that when dealings start next Wednesday Abbey shares could fetch 210p-30p more than the offer price. Merchant bank Warburg, which handled the sale, said that more than 375,000 people had applied for 2.6 billion shares. Only 135 million, representing 48 per cent of the company were on sale.

Around 1,600 Abbey employees applied for 4.6 million shares in the company on preferential application forms. Their requests have been met in full. Other investors will not know until June 19 whether they have succeeded. Applications for up to 3,300 shares will go into a ballot, and those who are successful will get 300 shares.

Applications for more than 4,000 shares have been sealed down drastically to around 5 per cent of the amount applied for. Investors who put in for large numbers of shares are being restricted to a maximum of 400,000 and their applications have been sealed down around 4 per cent of the number they wanted.

The intention, according to Warburg, was to favour the small investor. Obvious stages who put in multiple applications were thrown out altogether. The wedding out process, which has gone on since Wednesday, means that Abbey will have 130,000 outside investors, ITT Corporation of the US, whose decision to sell off part of the company sparked the offer for sale, will retain a controlling stake.

Abbey Life is likely to have a market value of more than £500 million when it makes its debut next Wednesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TAYLOR Woodrow, the building and civil engineering group, is raising \$2.5 million from shareholders through a rights issue of one new share at 370p for every five shares currently owned. Shares in the company jumped 35p to 415p on the news. Taylor Woodrow directors are making no profit or dividend forecast but say that order books are some 25 per cent higher than a year ago.

DU PONT yesterday signed a \$30 million-a-year contract to buy 65,000 tonnes of Ayrshire coal annually for the £19 million private electricity station it is building near Londonderry. Du Pont is to cease buying electricity from the NI Electricity Service.

PERSONAL pensions have been the top investment tip but did you know you can take one out even if you are already in a pensionable job? Weekend Money tomorrow shows how to make use of freelance earnings.

Mexico in £90m deal with UK

Britain and Mexico yesterday announced details of trade and cooperation deals worth £90 million. British companies involved in the agreements include Sinclair Computers and British Rail Engineering, as well as ICI, GKN, Glaxo and Unilever.

The deals have been signed during the state visit to Britain by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid.

Announcing the agreements, Trade Minister Mr Paul Channon said they were "significant and demonstrate British confidence in the underlying strength of the Mexican economy and in the policies being pursued by the Mexican Government".

The agreements cover agriculture and synthetic protein

products made by ICI, vehicle components from GKN, coal washing equipment from Davy McKee, Glaxo pharmaceutical products, food perfume products from Unilever, rail coaches from BR, Sinclair computers, and fibres from Morgan Crucible.

Mr Channon and his Mexican counterpart, Mr Hector Hernandez, said they were examining plans for further co-operation in areas including tourism, education, energy, aerospace, agriculture, fisheries and ship repair.

The deals will be welcome for Sinclair and BR, both of which have had to face business downturns recently. The agreement involving BR and the Mexican state rail company

is for co-operation in the manufacture of BR's international rail coach, which has been designed to fit dimensions and gauges can be altered to fit differing countries' rail requirements. BR Engineering has been looking hard for overseas markets as it has continued to announce job cuts at home.

Sinclair Research, the home computer group, has also run into bad times. Sinclair's creditors are involved at present in talks with major banks to put together a package to raise £15 million. Both the Bank of England and Mrs Thatcher have been reported as taking an interest in the company's future.

The new deal with Mexico is to develop plans for local manufacture of computers.

D'Abo raises Selincourt cash offer to £14.9m

By Margaret Pagnano, City Correspondent

Jennifer D'Abo, head of the Ryman stationery chain, is making a last ditch bid for control of the Selincourt fashion group by upping the cash offer to £14 million to £14.9 million.

Mrs D'Abo, through a shell investment company, Selincourt, is topping up the cash alternative offer from 28p to 28.6p a share. Terms for the ordinary and preference share offers, which value the Jacquemar scarves, knitwear and Frank Usher bag-gowns group at £17.7 million, are not being increased. Shares in Selincourt hovered around the 28p level yesterday to close down 1p at 29p.

Selincourt immediately attacked Stormard's latest offer as unconvincing. Sir David Nicholson, chairman, said the board's view that Selincourt will be better served by the existing management team than by Mrs D'Abo. He added that the group remained confident it could press ahead with plans to raise new capital on better terms for Selincourt's shareholders than those proposed by Mrs D'Abo.

Mrs D'Abo's bid included proposals to inject £5.3 million of new money into Selincourt which is backed by five institutions putting in a £1 million each who will, if the bid is successful, control about 30 per cent of the group.

Rescue for names?

By Mary Brasier

A rescue plan by the Lloyd's market to help names on PCW syndicates who face losses of £130 million has not been ruled out by Mr. Graham White, managing director of the Richard Beckett Agency which runs the troubled syndicates.

Mr White believes the market as a whole may be prepared to help PCW names even though the Lloyd's authorities have said they can give no financial help to members whose bills run as high as \$500,000. Attempts to find an alternative solution to the PCW problem have largely run aground because of the size of the problem.

However, the appointment of Sir Ian Morrow to head an independent agency, AUA (3), to run the syndicates is likely to give impetus to the rescue talks.

We have not got very far yet in the rescue talks, says Mr White. He met Sir Ian this week and is expected to be named as a member of the AUA (3) board, which is being set up to help the Richard Beckett agency will cease to operate from the end of the year, because its parent company, Minet, has decided to close its first quarter results from Minet yesterday show the agency lost £156,000.

A letter to PCW names this week says, "there may be good grounds upon which some of the names who accepted last year's offer to names may be able to set their previous acceptance aside."



Justin Frewen... blind spot

Gaol for 'arrogant' Old Etonian

A viscount's nephew and Old Etonian, Justin Frewen, was yesterday branded by judge as a liar and a cheat who "betrayed the reputation of the City of London."

"You treated other people's savings as mere counters on a board game. You told lie after lie to your clients," said Judge Hilliard as he sentenced the 26-year-old Frewen, a nephew of Viscount Selby, for two years. He described him as "an arrogant young man with a blind spot about other people's money."

After eight hours' deliberation an Old Etonian jury found Mr Frewen guilty of fraud, trading, but cleared him of two charges of obtaining by deception.

Mr Frewen was 21 when he started Imperial Commodities Ltd, which traded in the City in oil, zinc and copper. When it crashed two years later, clients had lost nearly half a million pounds, some their life

savings, said Mr Richard Hawkins, QC, prosecuting. The prosecution alleged that Frewen "lived the life of Riley" at the expense of investors.

The court was told that commodity investments were more risky than others and clients could lose by commercial judgement. But the prosecution alleged the money was not lost in this way but because Frewen "spent money on things he ought not to have done. The public were put at risks they might never have agreed to take had they known the truth," said Mr Hawkins.

When new investors put in money, "it got soaked up in a bottomless pit of debt and it got to the position of robbery to clients grew and grew."

Mr Frewen blamed his company's crash on the actions of employees who sent anonymous letters to clients telling

them to pull out and unfavourable newspaper articles. The judge, who also barred Mr Frewen from taking part in company management for four years, will decide over the weekend whether to make Mr Frewen criminally bankrupt. Civil proceedings against him are already in progress and there are claims for compensation.

Outside the court, Miss Gwendoline Lamb, who has led a one-woman fight for justice, said: "I am happy with the verdict but not with the sentence. He has ruined the lives of many of his clients," she said.

Miss Lamb said she was continuing her fight to make company managers more accountable to clients because of the "intervention" of the law. She plans to urge MPs to speed up the passing of the Investors Protection Bill.

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF

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MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY (ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX AUX Puits)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL TO TENDER No. 1143/IJ/TRS

The National Oil Well Company (ENTP) is launching an open National and International Call to Tender for the supply of:

SPARE PARTS — LAND-ROVER

Those applicants interested in this offer may obtain specifications from the following address:

Entreprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits (ENTP), 16 Route de Meftah, Oued Smar, El Harrach, Alger, Algérie

on payment of the sum of 400 Algerian dinars as from the publication date of this notice.

Offers drawn up in five (5) copies must be sent in double-sealed and registered packet to the Secretariat de la Direction des Approvisionnements (Supplies Division) at the above address.

The outer envelope must be anonymous carrying no marking except the endorsement: "Appel à la concurrence ouvert National et International No. 1143/IJ/TRS — Confidential à ne pas ouvrir."

Offers must arrive at the latest within 45 days after the first publication of this notice.

Option period shall be 180 days from the closing date of this Invitation to Tender.

David Lacey in Mexico City

Robson poser as Dixon boldly goes

SOCCER

In 1970 the Camino Real Hotel, Mexico City seemed the last word in modern luxury. Now, while the place has retained its comforts and the poolside still beckons, the garish decor is revealed as early Star Trek.

After England had beaten a jet-lagged, unacclimatised West German team operating at two thirds strength in a stadium four-fifths empty, Bobby Robson sat in the lounge, put a Spock-like finger to his brow and tried to find some logic in the situation. It was not easy; in the background a pianist played Laura.

The England manager was the first to admit that the relative condition of the teams had everything to do with his side's 3-0 victory. "Two weeks, acclimatisation, against two days' rest, that's a massive advantage," he said. "People say that you can come here and play immediately at altitude but you can't."

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DIXON'S DELIGHT: The Chelsea striker celebrates his two-goal debut for England

"He scored twice and chested the ball down for Bryan Robson to score our first goal. You can't argue with that," said Bobby Robson a little ruefully.

When the quality of Hodde's performance against West Germany was put to other members of the team they said that she should have been working back on the right hand side, but because he had been so good on the ball they had covered for him. Thus, by a roundabout route, the squad recognised Hodde's most effective role, which is to float behind the striker without having to worry too much about marking opponents in his own half.

Robson continues to put the emphasis on the Tottenham player's work rate. "Talent without application is wasted and it's always a shame to waste talent," he said. "Glen"

SOCCER IN BRIEF

LAWRIE MCMENEMY, who left Southampton two weeks ago, was yesterday formally named as the new manager of Sunderland. The relegated club's chairman Tom Cowie is believed to have offered the 48-year-old McMenemy a lucrative four-year contract and a seat on the board.

SANDY CLUBB, a Stafford gynaeologist, has been appointed to the post of Stoke City's successor. Frank Edwards, who died earlier this week.

JIM BETT ended a month of speculation yesterday when he signed for Aberdeen. The 35-year-old Scotland midfielder had been linked with Southampton and his former club Rangers but the Scottish champions succeeded by paying just over \$300,000 to Lokeren.

NEWCASTLE have agreed a £200,000 fee for the transfer of right-back Malcolm Brown to his old club Huddersfield who have just signed Terry Curran from Everton in a free transfer.

Robert Armstrong
Bates out to repay Hutchins' Cup faith

Britain's campaign to return to the forefront of international tennis resumes with a preliminary match against Portugal in the European Zone B of the Davis Cup at Nottingham today. Though team manager Paul Hutchins has chosen Stephen Shaw and Jeremy Bates. Both have gained a series of notable results in singles competitions during the past six months. Thirty-year-old Colin Dowdwell will partner Bates in the doubles rubber which may well clinch a British victory tomorrow.

It will be Bates' first Davis Cup rubber even though he has been in the squad for preliminary matches. The British No. 4, who successfully defended his Manchester title last week, wins his place in preference to the talented left-hander, Stuart Dale, who represented Britain at the Los Angeles Olympics. Hutchins described the selection as "a close decision."

In the absence of John Lloyd, who has been otherwise engaged at Queen's Club this week, the No. 1 singles rubber will be played by Shaw, who gained valuable experience in the 4-1 defeat by Yugoslavia last September — a result that caused Britain to be relegated from the championship division. Bates, ranked second in Britain, will open the tie against the 17-year-old Joao Silva, an outstanding junior but who has never before played on grass.

Bates' opponent is the second rubber will be Pedro Cordeiro, another 22-year-old, a man not currently listed in the computer rankings because he is completing his national service. Cordeiro had to receive a special dispensation from the Portuguese army to play.

On Sunday, Shaw will open the tie with singles against Cordeiro with Bates to follow against Silva. However, if the tie goes according to plan against the underdogs, these will be the merely dead rubbers. Bates will be expected to play against Silva in the doubles rubber in preparation for the next round, probably against Switzerland.

Nevertheless, Hutchins warned against over-confidence. "The down side of the unexpected defeat against Yugoslavia," he said, "is that it is important for us to regain our position in the world group," he added. "Clearly, Britain's younger talent must be given the opportunity to play against the elite nations if they are to become elite players themselves."

John Rodda
Coaching on new track

ATHLETICS
Athletics received another sponsorship yesterday, with more than £200,000 going into the coaching side of the sport from Minolta Copiers.

The money will be used to bring together many aspects of coaching in Britain which has suffered from being too compartmentalised. Incentives for club coaching schemes, the facility to bring coaches together and hold clinics attended by leading overseas experts, are expensive items but which in the long run should cement the existing framework of the United Kingdom Coaching scheme.

The sponsor, which will enable Frank Dick, the UK director

HOCKEY

Pat Rowley
Netherlands 2
England 3

Historic win for England

THESE ARE heady days in men's hockey. England, building on the successes of the Great Britain team, set about their conquest from ninth in the world rankings by defeating the Netherlands in Holland for the first time in 50 years.

A 3-2 win over the Dutch in the opening match of the BMW 4x4 Nations Tournament at Amstelveen is also England's first victory over the Dutch in 24 years. The victory was achieved on the strength of a fine first-half attacking display in which a 3-1 lead was richly deserved. But it needed a splendid rearguard action throughout the second half to contain a Dutch team spurred on by their huge home support.

England made a fine start by taking the lead from the Dutch penalty corner. Rhys, scoring with a hard drive from Barber's pass in the third minute. Dutch pressure soon produced an equaliser, the first of two entered the Dutch goals by the lively Heijn.

England were soon ahead again, though. In the 18th minute Barber squeezed the ball past the Dutch goalkeeper. The main part of their tour completed England's tour to Los Angeles yesterday to prepare for Sunday's match against the United States; a fixture made even more meaningless by the Americans' recent World Cup defeat against Costa Rica.

Money can be the only object of the exercise but since the kick-off time in Los Angeles coincides with the climax of the US Open even this may not be an aim easily achieved.

England's success, after the defeat by Italy and Mexico, has justified the experimental side of the tour although even this will be questionable if Robson and his players find themselves playing Monterrey, a steel-producing prelate spot but near the Gulf, in the World Cup next summer. From the point of view of team selection and strategy it has merely offered Robson another and perhaps more confusing set of alternatives.

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Storm Star filly with a future

RICHARD BAERLEIN

Memories of the controversial Vincent O'Brien trained Storm Bird, the two-year-old champion of 1980, were revived at Newbury yesterday when his daughter Storm Star gave him a flying start as a sire.

Storm Star, making her debut, was up against two fillies held in high esteem in their respective stables, and both of whom were sent to the world rankings by defeating the Netherlands in Holland for the first time in 50 years.

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In large fields at Newbury on the straight course low numbers in the draw are generally regarded as the kiss of death. However, in the 21 runner, Kennet Maiden Stakes, Gorgeons, Algenon starting at 20-1, ridden by Brent Thompson and drawn No. 2 gained a photo verdict over the 10-1 favourite, Dogmatic ridden by Caution and drawn No. 1.

The debutante Holliston scored a surprise victory for trainer, Mike Johnston. Houghton in the Chidrey Maiden Stakes. Holliston steered an erratic course in the market going from 12-1 to 13-2 and back to 14-1. His trainer had engaged Holliston to ride the more fancied Philistine who started second favourite to Orange Hill and after the victory of Holliston, Mike Johnston Houghton declared that he had never been more surprised.

At York today under the sponsorship of the holiday firm, El Capistrano, there are two races in which a team of English amateur women riders take on a team of English amateur women riders.

Geraldine Rees, captain of the English team, is the only woman rider to have competed in the Grand National course, but her record cannot be compared with that of the American, Mary Ann Allgood, who has over 600 winners to her credit.

Geraldine has had to change from a first-class ride on the withdrawn Lady Skies, to Mel's Choice, who has no recent form at all in the San Juan de Capistrano Handicap. As there are only six runners declared for the second event, the El Capistrano Villan Handicap.

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cap, Geraldine finds herself without a mount and there are no available reserves as in the earlier race.

Mary Ellen Hickey rides Try To Stop Me, who has some useful form in the first event, but I prefer our own Elaine Mellor on El Mansour. Elaine could also land the other race on Absent Lover, where curiously enough Mary Ellen Hickey rides No-U-Turn, trained by Stan Mellor.

Clive Brittain expects to win both two-year-old races with Volida and Rethymno respectively, and has engaged Steve Caution to ride both. Volida was favourite for her debut, but has been beaten three quarters of a length by the useful Lurmas while Rethymno showed great promise when third to Lance at Kempton.

Phil Bull's popular colours should be carried to victory in the Mail On Sunday Three-year-old Handicap by Ho Mi Ching, for whom Caution has been engaged. The colt disappointed here in May when the ground was against him but this distance should suit him well.

Music Machine, third to Chaplin's Club at Epsom, should take the Freeman Of York Apprentice Handicap.

At Sandown, Sidab, even with a 5lb penalty, should give Pat Eddery a winning ride in the Norman Hill Stakes, for he is on a very favourable mark.

In the Surrey Racing Handicap it may pay to give another chance to the Andystan. He was made favourite at Brighton last time and although slightly disappointing there was some merit in finishing fifth to Embroideress.

England were soon ahead again, though. In the 18th minute Barber squeezed the ball past the Dutch goalkeeper. The main part of their tour completed England's tour to Los Angeles yesterday to prepare for Sunday's match against the United States; a fixture made even more meaningless by the Americans' recent World Cup defeat against Costa Rica.

Money can be the only object of the exercise but since the kick-off time in Los Angeles coincides with the climax of the US Open even this may not be an aim easily achieved.

England's success, after the defeat by Italy and Mexico, has justified the experimental side of the tour although even this will be questionable if Robson and his players find themselves playing Monterrey, a steel-producing prelate spot but near the Gulf, in the World Cup next summer. From the point of view of team selection and strategy it has merely offered Robson another and perhaps more confusing set of alternatives.

If England, outnumbered in midfield and lying flat across the back, played West Germany on equal terms Wednesday's results might be reversed. As it was the Germans saw Shilton save a penalty and they later hit the angle of post and bar. They also gave England a lesson in the long range shooting that makes the most of the thin atmosphere.

Hodde's cultured, composed performance in midfield and Dixon's two goals have set Robson a problem. He had given Dixon his first full England game last night, but the player would demonstrate the difficulty in making a successful transition from club to international football.

Dixon responded by taking his two goals as nonchalantly as Chelsea had been helping Chelsea to win a routine League game. Norman Medhurst, the England trainer but primarily a Chelsea employee, was almost dancing on the pavement outside the hotel as the press bus pulled up after the match. "There's only one headline," he cried, "Kerry Gold."

This will be the natural reaction to Dixon's success.

BADMINTON
Richard Jago in Calgary
Pros want money now

Steve Baddeley, the English national champion, and Morten Frost, the favourite from Denmark, both reached the last 16 of the World Championships in Calgary, but drew more attention from their critics than of the event.

Baddeley looked more relaxed than during his opening match and after conceding only 117 points to Malaysia's Fong Kok Koon, said that he thought it "scandalous" that the question of a world open championship with prize money had not been on the agenda of the International Federation's annual meeting.

Baddeley, acting Secretary of the Players' Association, went on: "They are putting money away in the bank and doing so on the backs of the players, which is disgraceful. The IBF have come to a point where they are open badminton recently, but this is not one of them. The wheels of the machinery move slowly and they make them move slowly because that's the way they want."

Frost, looking for the first time since he's been here like a genuinely happy man, following the arrival of his wife, Ulla-Britt, lost only six points to the only Canadian remaining in the competition, John Goss.

Entry to the next World Championships, in Peking in 1987, is to be extended from four to six singles per country, but national associations will still be allowed to decide which players shall be nominated and who shall partner whom. Part of the IBF's stance is influenced by the requirements of being a newly-elected Olympic sport.

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11 20 Falklands Memorial Service.
12 20 Radio Active.

1 9 The World's Greatest
1 40 The Archers.
2 6 News: Woman's Hour from Bir-
2 6 mingham.
3 6 News, Daughters and Sons, by
3 6 Ivy Compton-Burnett.
4 6 News, Actuality Continuing a
4 6 journey across America in the
4 6 sound of the radio stations along
4 6 the way.
4 40 Story Time. Comic Quintet (5r
4 40 Old Papa Johnson, by Robert
4 40 Graves.

5:00 PM.
6:00 The Six O'Clock News
6:30 The Cabaret Upstairs New variety acts from London's thriving fringe circuit.
7:00 News.
7:55 The Archers.
7:20 Pick of the Week.
8:20 Law in Action.
8:45 Any Questions? John Selwyn

9 30 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
 9 45 Kaleidoscope
 10 15 A Book at Bedtime. "Life of Riley," by Anthony Cronin.
 10 30 The World Tonight
 11 0 Today in Parliament
 11 15 The Financial World Tonight

11 30 Week Ending.
12 6 News.
12 33 Shipping Forecast.

Close.

VHF: **11 6-12** Schools. **1 55 pm** Listening Corner. **2 53 0** Schools. **11 6-12 6** Study on **4 12 30 10 am** Schools Night-Time Broadcasting.

Wales (340m): **4 0 pm A+ Radio 2**. **6 25** Torrance O'Donnoghue. **7 33 AM TO 8 PM** Flynn. **11 30** Celtic Connections. **11 30 pm** Vireo for Lundy. **11 30** Celtic Connections. **1 45 Bn** Sounds. Uninterruptible. **2 40**.

[illegible]

Scotland (370m): 6 0 am As Radio 4. 6 30
 Good Morning Scotland. 8 45 Jimmy
 Mack. 11 35 Macgregor's Gathering. 12 0
 News. 12 2 pm Travel Time. 12 30
 Lunchtime Report. 1 45 As Radio 4.
 Robin Edie's Musicology. 2 0 News. 2 3
 Taking Issue with Colin Bell. 3 0 News.
 3 3 Art Suttor. 5 0 Good Evening
 Scotland. 6 0 News. Farming News. 6 30
 News. 6 45 As Radio 4.
 7 2 The Best of Scottish. 8 0 Gerry Ford's
 Country Corner. 10 0 News. Top Forty.
 11 30 Rock on Scotland. 12 30 am-Close
 As Radio 4.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648kHz (463m) at the following times GMT

6 00 Newsdesk, 6 30 Brain of Britain
1955, 7 00 News, 7 20 Twenty-four Hours
8 30 Good Morning Workshop, 7 45 Merchant
Navy Programme, 8 00 News, 8 9 Reflections,
8 15 Shakespeare and Music, 8 30
A Word in Edgeways, 9 News,
9 15 The World
Today, 9 30 Financial News, 9 40 Look
Ahead, 9 45 The Pome Israel, 10 00 News;
10 15 News, 10 30 News, 10 45 News,
11 00 Programme, 11 00 News, 11 9 News about
Britain, 11 15 Cricknet, 11 15 News
11 30 Meridian, 11 45 News, 11 55 News

the Askins. 12 45 Sports Roundup. 1 9
News. 1 9 Twenty-four Hours. 1 38 John
Newsworld. 1 38 The 48. 1 38
Radio Newsworld. 3 15 The Ghostly Tales
of Henry James. 4 9 News. 4 9 Comment-
ary. 4 15 Science in Action. 4 20
Twenty-four Hours. 4 20
20 30 Science in Action. 9 9 News/
Network UK. 9 15 Music Now. 9 45
The 48. 10 38 The 48. 10 38
Today. 10 25 A Letter from Northern
Ireland. 10 30 Financial News. 10 45
Reflections. 10 45 Sports Roundup. 11 9
News. 11 9 Commentary. 11 10 The 48. 11 9
News. 11 9 News About Britain.
12 15 Radio Newsworld. 12 30 About
Britain. 12 45 Recording of the Week.
12 45 The 48. 12 45 The 48. 12 45

1 45 Letterbox. 2 0 News. 2 9 British
Press Review. 2 15 Network UK. 2 30
People and Politics. 3 0 News. 3 5 News
About Britain. 3 5 News. 4 0 The
5 0 Financial News. 4 55 Reflections.
5 0 News. 5 9 Twenty-four Hours. 5 45
The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 4—1,500m (200kHz),
London only 417m (726kHz), VHF: Radio 3—
643m (1,215kHz), VHF: Radio 2—422m
637m (474kHz), 530m (565kHz), VHF: Radio 1—
268m (1,053kHz), 275m (1,089kHz).

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